Jack & Elizabeth Lewis, 410 East Oak Street, Lafayette - April 22, 1986
Interviewer: Fred Stones

This is the continuing series of the historical society thing here for the Lafayette Library and Jack and Elizabeth have graciously consented to talk to us about some of the things that they remember from years past. We want you to know that we appreciate your letting me come and talk to you about this.

Jack, where were you born? In Lafayette. And when? 1910. Elizabeth, where were you born? I was born in Lafayette in 1912 down at the end of Emma Street right in the last house next to the Simpson Mining Camp. That was on East Emma Street? On East Emma Street. Okay, and that was in 1910? No, 1912. In 1912. All right. How many children did you have? Two. What were their names? Our oldest son is Raymond H. Lewis who will soon be 55 years of age, born in 1931. And our second son, Jack Vernon, was born in Lafayette in 1941 and passed away in March of 1982. Okay, thank you.

So, you've both lived here all of your lives. What was your name before you were married? Dillon. Elizabeth May Dillon was my maiden name. And your mother's and father's names were? George and Margaret Dillon. Jack, your mother's and father's names? John. And my mother's name was Anna. Did you have any brothers or sisters? One brother and one sister. What were their names? George and Verda. Are they still alive? Are they still around? Do they still live in Lafayette? Verda does; she married Earl Morton. And my brother, Nip, is in Glenwood Springs. Nip is his nickname; that's what everybody called him.

Elizabeth, how many brothers and sisters did you have? Altogether, there were 14 of us. Oh, my heavens! Can you name them all? Yessir, I can. All right, have at it. Herman Miller, Elizabeth May, Margaret Jane, Mary Rosetta, David John Arthur, William George, Helen Irene, Donald Reed, Warren Curtis, Ruth Elaine, Ralph Raymond, Henrietta and Loretta, who were twins, and Sheri Marie. How many of them are still alive? Half. How many of those that are left still live in Lafayette? Besides myself, there's Mary and Loretta Dillon and Henrietta Van Dyke and Sheri Manzanares. They live in Lafayette. And Warren Curtis Dillon in Washington D.C., or near Washington, D.C. Well, that gives us a nice family history of all of you. And you're all old timers and this is what we want to know because you're people who have lived here all your life and so you know what's been going on.

Jack: We left here, I guess, in about '11 or '12 and went to the dry lands. And homesteaded. And then we came back in 1918 and outside of that, you might say, we've been here all the time. You were just little when you went to the dry lands; where was the dry land farm? East of Greeley, near New Rayburn. And you were up there about six years? Yeah, pretty close. Did you do pretty well up there? Starved out. Were you homesteading up there? Yeah. The reason I guess we really left is my mother had hay fever so bad and the dust and well, you made about one crop every three or four. You probably read the story about Sarah Brillhart - that was our neighbor.

Let's start with you Jack - tell me a little bit of what you remember of the early town - what the town looked like. It was a whole lot better than it is today. Okay, tell me about it. What there was here; what you did for entertainment, the stores that were here. What we did for entertainment - we made our own, Fred, we didn't have a park on every corner. What kind of businesses were there here at that time? Well, there was a grocery store - Charlie Scholes, and Bermont and whats-his-name was down here, Earl Burns and all them kind of stores. Charlie Scholes had a bakery and Charlie Scholes done all right in that bakery until,like they do in other towns, they decided they'd better go someplace else to buy their stuff and have it at home. And that's why old Charlie put in groceries. Charlie was a good old guy.

How much was available here in Lafayette of what you needed to buy? Well, I would say pretty anything you needed because you didn't have no car to go get it. Old Alderson had the - down there and Sam Lucocks had the lumber yards at that time and plumbing shop. Where was the second lumber yard besides Lafayette? Down there where you guys built them houses. Down on East Cannon, down in that direction? Yeah, that whole block in there. There used to be a lumber yard there and a pickle factory down there too. Do you remember who ran the lumber yard? That was, Rice, I think it was. Was that locally owned? Uh, I can't tell you, Fred. Now, tell me about the pickle factory. Well, it stayed there quite a while. It was right along that railroad track coming in there. And then that house where Parise lived - that was an old depot - the C&S depot. Where did they get the material for the pickles? Where'd they get the cucumbers? Well, all around here - guys used to raise cucumbers - them Japs out here - out around Canfield. They had them big barrels there just like they do in a big pickle factory. And they'd fill them with brine and then fill them with pickles and let them set there.

Did you ever work when you were a child in any of the stores or when you were a young boy in any of the stores? I worked on a farm. What farm, where was the farm? Well, Chuck Waneka's dad, Bill Waneka; Gus Waneka; Charlie Rotollo; my uncle. I stayed with my uncle most of the time. Who was your uncle? Art Kneebone. He lived over the hill; I used to stay there the biggest part of the time. That's where all the houses are built up there, where Kneebones lived. Art lived right over the hill, right down here. But all that out there was UP ground at that time. But all these other places around here, I used to work for 50¢ and a dollar a day. I used to empty ash pits and one thing and another. What would they have you do at the farms, what were your jobs? Cuttin' hay and puttin' it up and cultivatin' corn. Was this all done by horse? Right, they didn't have tractors then. Elizabeth - tell them about the wheat fields. Huh? The wheat - for Dan Ferguson(?)Oh, yeah, I worked for Dan Ferguson(?) that was in '27 I worked for him, from daylight 'till dark. He had that threshing machine for quite a while. Oh yeah. I'd have probably worked for him more than one year but that's when I started at the cheese factory.

Tell me about the cheese factory. I first started up there in 1927. Where was the cheese factory? Well it was where the liquor store was then and George Prather's(?) store. Right there on 287, right in that block there. Describe that building to me; nobody's ever said anything about this. Well, it was brick. The main building was brick and it had a lean-to on both sides. Old John Wiseman there, we used to fight with him all the time. Shucks, you'd get on his side - so he finally put a bench there. And the trucks could just barely get through. Red Schofield, Brad and Dugan all hauled milk up there and then there were a lot of guys that brought their own milk. Charlie Rotollo, Gus Waneka, _____ Brothers and Kneebones and Schofields, all those. How much cheese could you make up there at a time? Oh, I don't know; we could make quite a bit. We had two 10,000 gallon vats and we'd get about eight or nine hundred pounds out of each one. What kinds of cheese did you make? Longhorn, the big round ones, bricks, any kind. How did you market it; where were they sold? Well, most of it went to Denver. When I first went to work there, the Northern Colorado Dairy from Brighton owned it. Then after a couple of years, Frink bought it, in Denver. We used to make cheese for all them outfits in Denver - Swifts and Cudahy and all of them. Did you make anything besides cheese? That's it. You didn't make any butter or a -? No, they done that in Denver. How long did it take to make the cheese? From the time you started until you had the finished product? One day. Oh, you could do it in one day? You'd run a batch every day? Every day. It wasn't an eight hour day - it was 12 hours. I thought it would take longer to make a batch of cheese. Elizabeth - Well, it takes longer to age, but not to make it. Jack - You'd make it in one day and you'd put it in the cans, press it; you'd take it out the next morning when the milk started to come in and then you'd just start it all over again. You'd take them out and put them on the racks. And they had to stay three days before you could dunk them in wax and away they'd go. Now you said you'd have to press them. Why did you press them? You'd have to press them so they'd be tight together and get all that whey out of them. To get the water and the skim milk and that kind of stuff out of them. What did you do with what was left? The whey? Oh the people would come get it for their hogs - old man Markey(?) and Charlie Hanson and the whole bunch - it was good hog feed. And you'd do that every day? Every day, seven days a week. And then how long did it have to age? Oh, it wouldn't age up here too long; they'd take it with them - probably we'd keep it three, four weeks, something like that. We'd get that room full and then we'd have to get it out of there. And this was Frink that owned this? Well, Carlson-Frink owned it toward the end but Northern Colorado Dairy owned it first. When did the cheese factory close? In the late '30s. And why did it close? Well, milk got too expensive to make cheese and they could use it in Denver. The last two or three years, about '35, along in there until '41 when I quit, we used to come out here in the winter time and go back down there in the summer time because they didn't need the milk for icecream in the winter. So you'd make cheese here in the wintertime and then take the milk to Denver and make icecream in the summertime, down to Carlson-Frink? Yeah. But I never did make icecream, I weighed milk when I was down there.

What happened to the cheese factory here? Up here? They sold it to George Prather, the building. I guess they must have took the stuff out when we left and went to North Park, I guess. All the machinery and the big vats and everything, the company took them all out and just left the building. Yeah. What age were you when you quit working for them? For Frink? Well, let's see, I quit in '41 - figure it out.

What did you do then? I went to North Park for a couple of years. Up in North Park, what was your occupation? Hayin'. Just on a ranch? On my uncle's ranch, yeah. And when you came back - then you came back during the war years. All right, during the war years where were you employed? Working for Nip in the dairy, 18 hours a day. Milk and ice. Did you have an ice machine here too? No, we bought ice from Longmont and Boulder and Denver. Did you have to go get it or did they deliver it? No, Nip went and got it. Did you deliver it to the houses? ?? What was ice selling for at that time? I think it was a penny a pound. So, you went to Denver or Longmont and bought the stuff and then you sold it for a penny a pound. My heavens, there was a lot of profit in that, wasn't there? Elizabeth - Well, there was some profit because money wasn't like it is today. Jack - We bought all we could in Longmont. Elizabeth - See everybody's refrigerator was broke down and they couldn't buy another one and everybody was demanding ice. Jack - So everybody was demanding ice so we, so Nip used to get it wherever we could get it. That's what he built this place next door for - he was going to put an ice machine in there and then we decided, the war was over and frigidaires come back in so he made a home out of it. In the creamery there, did you just sell milk out of there or did you make any butter or cheese? We made icecream, cottage cheese. What's the difference between making cottage cheese and regular cheese? Cottage cheese is a whole lot easier. And you'd make that and then sell it to the stores to resell it? No, we boxed it up. And then delivered yourselves? Okay. So you had a route that you delivered milk and - -. Yeah, we had Lafayette, Louisville and Erie and Lyons. Elizabeth - During the war, none of the other trucks come in after gas got so scarce; we did it all. Jack - We had the whole deal. Then after the war was over and the gas - every dang outfit in Denver would come out here so it's just one of those things, like the grocery stores - Safeway come in and --. What year did you close the creamery? '55. You ran it until '55 - and is that when Nip went over on the Western Slope? No, he stayed around until 1960, I think it was. He worked on construction until '60 and then he went over there.

Did you ever work in the mines? Never did. My dad wouldn't take either one of us. Your dad worked in the mines? Oh, he put all his life in there. What mines did he work in? All of 'em. Well, he went to the Shamrock over at Frederick and the State and the Centennial down here and old Centennial way over there in Louisville. That's where he got hurt, over there at Louisville.

A lot of guys holler about the unions, you know, I wish they could talk to my dad and her dad. You went in the mine at dark and you came out at dark. And you worked six days a week; you had one day off if you was lucky. For how much money? Well, not much; he never did talk money to us kids. But I know it wasn't much and the first of April, they would close down. And he used

find jobs on the farms; he liked to work on the farms. He'd work on the farms and in the yard and the gardens - that's how he'd stay out of the hole. And that old song that old Tennessee Ernie sings - that's the God's truth. He loaded coal by hand, then. That's right. He was in the mines before they got the machinery in there. Oh, definitely.

In construction, where did you work on construction? Well, we worked in Boulder. We worked on Magic Mountain and all around Denver. Me and Nip both worked at Magic Mountain. Tell me what Magic Mountain is. Well, it's what they call Heritage Square now. It was going to be another Disney Land. Did it ever take off? Not the Magic Mountain but it's working. Haven't you ever been down there? Oh, yeah. Well, we put all that stuff in there. So you were a carpenter? No, just a dumb laborer. Well, they have to have laborers. Is that what Nip was doing too? At that time, yeah. He was a carpenter's helper and I was running the jack hammer or whatever it was because he couldn't run the jack hammer on account of his ticker. But he helped the carpenter. We worked down there until it closed down. Elizabeth - It was one of the best payin' jobs he ever had. Yeah, it was a good job.

What did you do after your construction? Well, I was until 1960 out there and then I went with the Tryco Construction Company and that's where I wound up. George Fletcher from Arvada; and I stayed there until I got 62 and then I had to quit. Everything was against me. So I couldn't go until 65 so I quit at 62. And you've been retired here at the house ever since.

You said you used to have to make your own entertainment; what did you do for entertainment? How did you make your own? Well, for Fourth of July, we'd get one of my dad's carbides and put it in a little lard bucket and put a little carbide in there and put a little water in it and pop the lid on and that was your fire cracker. Did it make noise? Your dang right it made a noise. Did any of you ever get hurt doing this? Was it relatively safe to do that? Yeah, if you watched what you was doin'. But you wanted to put your foot on that can to hold it down. Nowdays, they throw firecrackers in your car. Where if you'd get in front where that lid was, you were liable to get it. That and then we had Kick The Can and that other thing - Catty-whatever they call it. What is Catty? Well, it's somethin' , about a little stick about this long and you point the stick and then you have another stick and - - - -(?)And mubblety peg, you know what that is. And we had stilts - you know what they are. And that was it.

You went to school here all the time you went to school? Well, I started in the Dry Land. Up there by Greeley. Yeah. Anyhow, I think it was about second grade up here. That was in the old building. They were just finishing that back part. See, when we came back up here, they were must finishing that. What year was that? We came back in 1919 but we moved over in that place about '21, I think it was. My dad bought that place in '21. And, if I remember right, old Reddington put the heat in that school. I seen him about six years ago. I went over to the home over there to see somebody and I was going by a hallway and I seen that guy and I thought - I backed up and here was old ___ Reddington. She died and then they put him in a home. He did a lot of work around here didn't he? Oh, yeah, he was a good plumber.

Do you remember any of the teachers you had when you went to school here? Miss McCaslin, Doc Hurt's wife. Carrie Nelson. That's about all I can remember. How many grades were there in the school? There were 12. Twelve grades in the one building. In this one building. When did they build the high school? I was in there one year. You were there one year in the highschool; so you graduated out of the high school. Ninth grade, yeah. How many were in your class? I don't know, Fred; not too many - probably 15-20, something like that. Do you remember any of them that are around here yet? Clancy Waneka. And Helen Waneka - Helen Graham. I don't know, that's about it, Fred, because most of them have either passed on - after that war, you know.

Did you participate in any sports in the school? Oh, I played a little ball, not much. Baseball? Yes, I never had too much time for it. I used to rather work than play.

Do you remember when they started the park up here? And the cemetery. The cemetery was always here as far as I can ever remember. We've got a deed from 1908. According to Sarah, there wasn't too many in there when she wrote that deal. Yeah, she said they had the first one to go into the cemetery, as I remember. That was around 1900 or maybe a little before. Okay, so that would date the cemetery, then. And then they had the football field and the baseball field and everything where the park is now. No, the football field used to be down here. Oh, on this side of the old grade school. In the back of it, yeah. See the grade school was there and the football field was there. And then when they built the new school, there was still one back of there, I guess. After I left the ninth grade, I never did mess around the school much.

Tell me a little bit about the swimming pool that was up there. Well, that was in the '30s someplace. There was a little bit of goin' on about it so they filled it back up. They had it all cemented up and everything and there was a little prejudice so they just decided that --. How was it built? What I mean, was physically, how did the pool look? Was it a square pool? No.Elizabeth: I remember when the team of horses took and drug - and made the great big hole. And if I can remember seeing them now, the horses drug it - they probably got it - just some of the farmers' horses. And they made the hole right where the park is now, is the way I have it in my mind. And then they cemented it afterwards. They cemented the sides and the bottom? The sides. Jack: See that back side, well, I would say the north side, that was a big cement wall there. And that's what that rock house was put there for. For the bath house. For the bath house. And it was concrete, then. Elizabeth: Oh, yeah, it was finished up nice. The floor was concreted and everything? Yes. Okay. And then down there this side of the high school was what they used to call the Vocational Building(Jack). WPA built that. There was a lot of the guys in town worked on that. Then they put it all into the school now, I guess. I never go up there. It's all incorporated into the school now; it's all built together.

In this time frame that you were going to school, what were the main issues in the City of Lafayette? Do you remember back that far? The main issues? Well, what was the town doing?

Side 2

Did you ever serve on the City Council? No. Nip did, not me. Elizabeth: Of course, water was always a big thing. Describe the water situation to me. Jack: We had good water, instead of swamp water like we've got now. We got swamp water, Fred, I don't care what any of them says. Some of it tastes like swamp and when it don't taste like swamp, it's got too much chlorine in, you can't get it to your nose. What did they do with the water, say back in the '20s, how was the water distributed here in town? Well, we were on restrictions. But we still had good water. Was the filter plant out on Baseline? They didn't have that one, they had one up by Marshall. They put this one up in later years. They used to have one of them tanks on Geneseo. Chuck Smith owned that one house - that cement thing there - well that's where that tank used to be. Oh, they just took that cement base out not too long ago. Oh, did they take it out? Yeah. I never did know what that was. Well that's what it was, Fred. So, that was a water tank for the City? Water tank they put up here by DeGiacomos - not the one on this side, but the one on that side. And what was the use of the two little ponds just to the west of the City? They were settling ponds. The water would come down from Eldorado into those ponds and then down into this tank that you were talking about? And then it was distributed around the town. After they put that tank there, I think they used most of that water in the cemetery. I'm pretty sure.

At that time, of course, most of the town was east of the highway, was it not? Oh, yeah, most of it was, yeah. So the pressure from that tank gave you plenty of pressure for the lower part of town. Right. When did they start developing the west side of town up above the highway up there? How long have Verda and Earl had theirs? See, there weren't very many houses up there where Verda and Earl live. Just a few, you know where Clemens place was. See, Fred, there wasn't too many places up that way at all. Elizabeth: I can remember Emma Street was bare until you got to Harmon's farm, almost. Well, there was Stutheits and then Harmons. Yeah, Harmons was the last one. All this other stuff up here on Baseline and all that, it come in real late(Jack). But I was working for the dairy most of the time and didn't pay too much attention.

Elizabeth - you went to school up here about the same time - a couple of years later. What's your recollection of the school up here? Well, of course, it's my school, I think a lot of it. I had no quarrel with it whatsoever. I think Lafayette High School turned out a lot of good students. I don't think there's anything to be ashamed of whatsoever. What did you do in the regular school day in the old square building? We had 45 minute classes if I remember correctly, and we had eight of them. And they were filled up; you just went right from one class to the other. You could take extra curriculums like bookkeeping and, you know, work in the office for extra credits. But we were prepared for college. They would take us as we entered the ninth grade and put up

your preparatory for college and then they would show us how many years of English we had to have, how many years of Math we had to have, how many years of Language we had to have - to prepare to go to college, you had to take what was there. You started out; you had to have three years of English so you usually you'd start in the ninth grade and take English and tenth and eleventh if you were wise so you wouldn't wait until the last year. When the time came to graduate, you weren't left with no knowing what you were going to do. We had two years of Languages here. We were given Spanish or Latin. And then we had Home Ec; and we had Home Ec I and Home Ec II. And slowly, as times got harder and they couldn't pay the teachers, they started taking away. They took away Shorthand; they took away Typing; they took away Home Ec II first and then they took away Home Ec I. They took away Latin and they started taking away all these extra things that we really didn't need. And then when I worked with PTA many years later, we fought to get these extra things back into school but it seemed like when got around to getting them all back in, they all came back into bigger and greater things. But we did fight to get a lot of this. And when we worked in PTA, why we had to fight for school lights and for playground equipment and the things that had been taken away from us, we tried to get into the schools.But even then, we had devoted teachers. Our music teacher, Lucille DeGiacomo, copied her own music and never let the children down for one minute and was criticized, probably, later on in years because she was so devoted and we had so many of those teachers. I think the ones that went up there got a good education, especially in the early years. How many were in the class that graduated with you? Oh, I'd say 25. So, there were a little more then, just two years later, than there was when Jack graduated. But I didn't graduate with my class of 1930. See, I worked the last four years that I went to high school. Where did you work? I worked in Boulder. I went on the bus every Friday at 3:30 or a quarter till four, I caught the bus. I worked a complete shift on Friday night and a complete shift on Saturday and a complete shift from eleven to 8:30 on Sunday night and then Jack would come over and get me and bring me home Sunday night and I worked that all my years of high school and so then, well, I'd say a good thirty years later, I went and got my GED diploma over at the Vocational Building. And so I've been included in the Class of Thirty in their last celebrations. But I had to work hard and what little money I made meant a lot to my folks.

Jack: But you know, things kinda went to heck up at this school when the, what do you call it, RE-2? Because Boulder would get everything first and then Fairview and if there was anything else, Lafayette got it. It went that way for a good many years. It would just filter over. That's right. That's the only thing I had about that RE-2 deal. You know, we was payin' taxes; everybody around here was payin' taxes, same as Boulder. But Boulder is for Boulder. And of course they had the votes to get what they wanted. That is right. And it's the same way, I don't care what anybody says now, it don't make that much difference to me about - what do you call that there - that mayor in Boulder was against that mall in Louisville. Well, to my notions, he never had no business to go back to Washington, which he did

and get the - cause they might as well had a mall there as someplace else. That's what we've fought all the years that we've been here in East Boulder. That's right, Fred. We're eventually, we're getting enough people around now in Longmont and Lafayette and Louisville and Broomfield and all that one of these days, we're going to be able to outvote Boulder. That's right, Fred. And Boulder, I don't care whatever anybody says, they didn't want anybody over there with a lunch bucket. That's right. They didn't want the coal miners over there. Right. But all they wanted was your money. That's right.

When did you start to work for the lumberyard up here? (Elizabeth). I'm sorry, I can't even remember. I worked 7½ years for Lee Moore. But I can't remember what year I started and what year I quit. I didn't think I'd ever forget, but I'd have to go back and look at my paycheck. You were the bookkeeper? The bookkeeper. Darlene Lewis, my husband's niece, his nephew's wife, she was working up there extra and after his steady bookkeeper, Mrs. Ellenberger, died why Lee needed a bookkeeper and, of course, Darlene Lewis had three little babies and so she trained me then and I worked for him for 7½ years and I enjoyed it very much. Who else worked for Lee Moore besides you? Well, Jack Miller was there then and he's still there. And Frank Peck was in the yard. Tell me a little bit about the lumberyard. Well, it was owned by the Broomfield Lumber Company - he had the controlling interest. Did you handle everything that was necessary to build a house there? Oh yes. Chuck Hindman built his noted Hindman Homes and he bought everything from Lee Moore. So it was a full service lumberyard. Yes, it was a full service lumberyard.

Now, for both of you, let me ask you a question. You were both young and just getting started when the depression hit this country. What did the depression do to you and what did the depression do to this part of the country? Well, as far as Jack and I were concerned, we fared good during the depression because Jack had a job with Carlson-Frink which netted us $55.00 every two weeks. We were able to live on that $55.00 every two weeks, right, Jack? Round steak was 20¢ a pound. We would go down to Horace Davis' store down here and at one time, Ham Roberts was the butcher. We would buy 20¢ worth of round steak which was a whole pound. We would use half of it for one meal and that would make us a meal, a half a pound of round steak - good lean round steak - that would be 10¢. So we could live on approximately, I would allow myself on a budget, $13.00 a week for our groceries. Jack had to go to Denver - when he went to Frinks - we allowed, I think, it was $10.00 a week for gas. So, all in all, we fared good and bought ourselves a new car. Almost every two years, we had a new car. We had a good trade-in value on our cars. And we also helped my folks with little miscellaneous things. For example, one year they didn't have a heating stove and we bought them a heating stove at Christmas time, or something like that. So we did real good through the depression. Jack - If you didn't want to work, though, Fred, there was some guy standin' right there ready to take over. Elizabeth - he had to work seven days a week up at the creamery. There were men standing there

that would be willing to go to work the minute that something didn't go right and if you wanted to walk off the job, there would be somebody standing there because the men were standing all over waiting for jobs. And then, twice a month, they'd have to go back after they'd come home and get their evening meal, and then they had to go back and test milk - test the farmers' milk twice a month. Then in between, he would try to attend the firemen's meeting and that's how, one of the ways as we grew older, was our entertainment. We went to the firemen meetings and went to the firemen dances. But Jack still had to do these things plus all these hours of work.

Jack - You know, Fred, you talk about depressions, when I went to Denver, like I told you, the guys would go down the alleys and take it out of the trashcans.

What did it do to the economy of the City of Lafayette? What happened to the mines? The mines, they used to close down, like I say, the first of April and they never started up until about September. Elizabeth - I believe they started up again like they always had, didn't they? Jack - When the war was goin' on they had to start up because they needed the coal but in the summer time they didn't. They waited until the sugar factories opened, the sugar factories and the schools and one thing and another, but there were no sale for the coal. They couldn't store the coal so they had to dig it and sell it. Yeah, pretty fast, Fred, because this is soft coal. Now the plants could usually pile it up because it was slack. But you couldn't pile up soft coal. But the plants could because they had them big pits and they'd use a bulldozer and push it on in. You can remember, your dad and dad used to go out and irrigate and everything else for Schofields and all that in the summertime. And when the war was on, of course they worked in the summertime but before that, they didn't.

Until the war came, it was really tough. Oh, yeah, it was really tough. About all there was around here to work was the mines and a few guys went to work on a farm, but outside of that, Fred, there was nothin'.

Were there any businesses that went under during the depression here in Lafayette that you recall? I don't think so. Some of them were pretty well bent but the depression, I don't think put them under any more than a whole lot of other things. Elizabeth - Well, the company store stayed down there - the Rocky Mountain Company Store and Cliff's old man, Jake,stayed there and the Public Service stayed there. And Sam Lucock stayed there. And Bermont stayed there. I do think there was a lot of credit went on the books. They did that in those days, you know, they had to carry the farmer and they carried the miner, a good deal. Even Lee Baker, up here, in his grocery store and then when they started to work, then they would pay him. Jack: Do you remember Dan Jones? Do you remember when he still had his livery stable down town? No, when I came, you see I didn't come until 1933, and he had that station up there. Well, see down there where - well, anyway, where that pool hall is and you know, the Senior Citizens - right at that empty place there, well, somebody's there now, but that's where the livery stable was and he used to haul coal. Jordy Gallagher used to haul coal for him and so did Bill. Now was Abby Nelson in his blacksmith shop then at that time too, across from Bermont's store? Yeah, at the back end of that lot there. Old Abby and George both. How long did they run that blacksmith shop? They were there a long time

but I can't remember what year and I can't remember what year they folded. But Abby got married and moved down with Gary and then George still stayed there in the old Nelson place. But them guys really worked. They used to shoe horses and all that stuff. We used to stand across the street and watch them because they'd sweat like a pig.

When did you join the firemen? In the '30s, early '30s. Elizabeth: He was in the firemen for 14 years and the only two years that we left, he had an uncle that wanted him to come up and try his hand at ranching and he was going to give us a ranch for doing it. Well, he got up there and Jack was proven to be a rancher; he learned to ride the wild horses and everything but his wife and I couldn't see eye to eye so after less than two years, why that was just before Jackie was born, I came back down here and so that fickled out. So in our nearly 56 years of marriage, we left and went to North Park for two years. And if I had to do it again, I wouldn't do it, but it was a real good experience and he enjoyed it very much. But I tell everybody that I'm a native of Lafayette and that I was born down at the end of Emma Street but as I was growing up until I was 14 years old, my dad lived, we lived in Lafayette until whatever mine he was working at closed down for the summer then we couldn't eat, a family of at least eight, couldn't eat without him working so he would try to get a job at another mine and work. Wherever this other mine hired him, if it was over at the Russell Mine in Firestone, then we moved to Firestone. If he got a job there, we'd move over there for three months then if he got a job back to the Columbine or wherever, then we'd move back to Lafayette. Then if that closed down for the summer, then we'd go over to the Industrial Mine in Superior, especially in the early years we would. So Lafayette was our home base so I consider that I've lived most of my 74 years in Lafayette. And I consider it home and I don't take a back seat for Lafayette for anybody. And I did fall heir to this and I'd like to show you - it says, "Lafayette, Colorado" and this is stamped "1908" and it had my uncle, William Dillon's deed to his cemetery lot and it was mailed to Superior, Colorado. And here it shows our school in 1908, it's first white picket fence and here it shows the Northern Colorado Electric Plant which is now Waneka Lake. And this is the old flour mill which was down there by the greenhouse. The elevator that burned? Yeah, the one that burned down. That Charlie Keller was running when it burned? Yes. And this is the Simpson Coal Mine and this was down below Emma Street. And down where Shiny Banyai had his trailer court and everything. And incidentally, the office that came from the old Simpson Coal Mine was moved beside Grandma and Grandpa Lewis' house and attached on to their house and after we got married, those were the first three rooms that we lived in.

Jack: You know, Fred, since 1921, we've never left this hill outside we went to the Park for a couple of years. We started up that block and then came down and over here. All up and down the block here.

Elizabeth: And it says, "Lafayette, the best small town in Colorado, population, 2500, inexhaustible coal mines, farming, good shipping facilities, unlimited electric power, stock raising, two railroads, best inducement for manufacturing - for information, address the Boosters' Club". Clear back in 1908. My gosh, I've never seen anything like that before. That's the first time I've seen that. And that was mailed to William Dillon, that was your father? No, that was my uncle that owned this home.

How long have you lived in this house? Since '59. It was moved here from Superior, Colorado. And where did you live before you lived here? Right across the street. And up the street first. Like you said, you've lived on this hill all of your lives. Well, since 1921. All of your married life. Yes.

Tell me what the firemen used to do when you joined them. Was that before they had the truck? Oh, yeah. They had one at Cliff's store down there, you know, they had a little shed down there - well you've seen them carts - they had one there and they had one up on the City Hall. Then the first car they got was '27 or '28, that Chevy that they put a new body on it, that's what they used to have, and that's all we had. And Abby Nelson and George Nelson built that body, the first one and put on there. On the truck? They bought the truck and they put the body on it.

Tell me what would happen when there was a fire before they got the truck, what would happen with the carts? Well, they had that bell first. I guess it's on the ground up there now. That's the big bell that's up there by the Fire Station? Right, they had that at City Hall before they put the siren in. And they'd ring that bell so many times. If there was a meeting, they'd ring it so many times. And if they were going to shut the water off, they'd ring it so many times. And that's the way they used to do that. I wonder what they're going to do with that siren since they've sold the City Hall now? I've wondered that myself. When the bell rang, then what would you do? Run to the station. And then what? Pick up the truck and whoever was there and take off. And before the truck was the cart, how did you handle a cart? Well, there was a tongue on there and so many guys on there and away you'd go. Just pull it yourself? Pull it yourself. And they had material on this cart to fight the fires? The hose was already wrapped around the cart. And when you got to the fire, was there enough fire hydrants around? Oh, yeah, there was about as many, no not as many as now, but there was plenty of them. I think there was only about one year of that and the rest was all truck, the little truck. Was it more convenient with the truck? As far as fighting the fire, I mean. Oh, yeah. Getting there and the hose was all in the truck. One guy would jump off and hook it on to the hose, or on to the hydrant. And you didn't have to pull it around, that was the main thing. Yeah. A lot of these places used to call but we never did ever go out of town with the truck or anything. You were there when we went to the State Mine, weren't you? Elizabeth: No, but you came home with your back burned that night.

Jack: I never will forget that, the tipple was on fire at the State and I was up there real close and boy, it was getting hot. I told old Frank Miller, I said, "Frank, I'm on fire"and the guys turned the hose on me. Oh, man, I was drowned and my back was burned. Elizabeth: But he saved you, though. Well, I know he saved me from getting burned but - -. What set the tipple on fire? Well, Fred, most of them were wooden tipples at that time and I think now if they put a new one up it has to be steel. But it was a wooden tipple and I don't know how it got on fire. Lee Baker, I think was mayor then and he came and got me and I don't know who all he got, he got a whole carload and we went over there. Do you remember what year that was? No, I don't, Fred. It must have been the late '30s. Well, I don't remember that. What year did you come here? I came in '33 and I don't remember. Elizabeth: It could have been in '32.

When I came, Myron Padfield was the superintendent over there, or the top boss, or whatever you want to call it and I don't remember a fire. I used to deliver oil to all the mines and I don't remember a fire being over there. The only mine fire I remember is the Liley out here. Well, I don't know what happened but Charlie bought that Black Diamond up here and they were going to move that tipple because it was a steel tipple over there. And I don't know what happened, whether too much burned down below or what, but that's what Charlie was going to do was take that tipple over there.

Do you know whatever happened to the tipple off the Black Diamond? No, I don't. I've often wondered. Yeah, I did too, but the two buildings are out there, you've probably seen them. Yeah, at old George Gouger's old farm. Yeah, but there's no tipples left anywhere around the country. It's a shame, that we've lost them. I don't know, I'm like you, I've always tried to figure out what happened; they probably cut it up for scrap. But that's where that tipple was supposed to go. That was good coal out there; we used to get it out there all the time for the dairy.

We're just about to the end of the tape and I want to take this time now to thank you both for a very interesting and a very informative hour. We appreciate it and I know the Library appreciates it and we thank you very much for letting me come and talk to you. If you've got any last comments --. We want you to know we appreciate it. Elizabeth: Blanche has asked us for a long time to do it and I thought I'd get something written up but I just didn't get around to do it but I know that him and I both - it seems like just touched the surface. He knows a lot more even than I do because I worked in Boulder all summer long and weekends and everything.