

Nancy Lawthers 1:22
So just talk. Normally.

Del Morr 1:26
You want to do an interview for Broomfield history,

Nancy Lawthers 1:30
right.? I have, now I do have a few things to say at the beginning. I am Nancy Lawthers and I'm interviewing Del Morr. The date is February 12 1997. We are recording at the Broomfield Senior Center in Broomfield, Colorado. When and where were you born

Del Morr 1:57
in Waterloo, Iowa on June 17 1921.

Nancy Lawthers 2:03
Right. And when did you move to Colorado

Del Morr 2:08
when I was five years old, so I'm as close to a native as you can get.

Nancy Lawthers 2:13
That's right. And where did you move to? Where did your family moved to

Del Morr 2:17
Denver

Nancy Lawthers 2:18
to Denver. And you lived there through your growing up,

Del Morr 2:23
right. All my life in th Denver area. Various suburbs. Yes. But basically the Denver area

Nancy Lawthers 2:30
and when did you come to Broomfield

Del Morr 2:33
in 1957.

Nancy Lawthers 2:35
Alright. And when you came to Broomfield that was the new Broomfield right?

Del Morr 2:41
That's right. There were less than 800 houses in Broomfield at the time, and very few streets. no stoplights.

Nancy Lawthers 2:57
What was the address?

Del Morr 2:59
We built a home on the corner of Main and Midway. 105 West Midway Boulevard. And it is now the home of the parish priest at Nativity of Our Lord parish. The parish brought that home

Nancy Lawthers 3:23
my goodness. Well. And I think when I spoke to Al at your party that he said that the traffic got very bad on Midway and Main

Del Morr 3:37
Oh it did. It, of course, was the corner where you had to turn if he were going into the little shopping center. And some of the cars became practically continuous.

Nancy Lawthers 3:54
There was a shopping center? Where was that?

Del Morr 3:58
It's down on the highway. Highway 287. It runs from Nickel through to 287.

Nancy Lawthers 4:10
Oh from Nickel.

Del Morr 4:11
Uh huh. That's presently where, oh, places like Bouquet Boutique and Ace Hardware. They're on Nickel.

Nancy Lawthers 4:22
Oh, I see. All right.

Del Morr 4:24
And then at that time, there was a large Safeway store there. It's since been torn down. The almost the entire Well, yes, the entire original Shopping Center has been torn down.

Nancy Lawthers 4:40
Oh. And was there a lake or a pond over there in that near that shopping center.

Del Morr 4:49
No. The pond that all of us claimed as the town pond is the one that The senior center looks out on from the Lakeshore Room. That was called Brunners pond. And I'm sure that it still belongs to Dr. Clive Brunner who was the local veterinarian. And all the children of the town skated on Brunner's pond,

Nancy Lawthers 5:22

oh,

Del Morr 5:23

and played in it when they were little. And it was great fun for all the young people. And that was before. People became so frightened of having an accident and a lawsuit on their property, because all of the children skated there all of the children played there. [unclear].

Nancy Lawthers 5:51

Oh, what about that open field that seems to surround the municipal Center and the senior center? Was that part of Brunners?

Del Morr 5:59

that was part of his farm Yeah,

Nancy Lawthers 6:02

I see.

Del Morr 6:03

He had a very large farm.

Nancy Lawthers 6:05

Yes. Well, the the so called first and second filings of Broomfield, whose farm did they buy?

Del Morr 6:17

They bought grandma Kozisek's farm, which was east of Main Street. And she was very colorful lady who didn't let the town interrupt her way of life at home.

Nancy Lawthers 6:36

Oh for goodness sake. Now, how did she manage that?

Del Morr 6:40

Well, with great difficulty because she had never penned in her chickens. And she saw no reason, just because that foolish town was there, that she should start penning in her chickens. And so our little Beagle would visit the farm at regular intervals and bring home a chicken. He was kind enough to bring them home alive. And so I would return them. And Grandma Kozisek and I became really good friends through me returning her chickens.

Nancy Lawthers 7:23

Where exactly did she live? Where was this farm?

Del Morr 7:29

The farm was directly across Main Street. And on both sides of Midway. Midway of course stopped with Main Street and that was West midway. And now we have East midway which goes through her original farm.

Nancy Lawthers 7:50

I see, well,

Del Morr 7:52

now much of the land that the original Broomfield was built on belonged to the man who owned the lumber company. John Huddart, [unclear] Joe Huddart rather. John was his son.

Nancy Lawthers 8:06

How do you spell his name?

Del Morr 8:07

H U D D A R T.

Nancy Lawthers 8:10

And grandma Kozisek was? How was her name?.

Del Morr 8:16

K O Z S I A K

Nancy Lawthers 8:27

S I A K alright. and huddart was the man who owned

Del Morr 8:40

the largest portion of the original Broomfield was built on. Yes. And he also owned the Broomfield Lumber Company.

Nancy Lawthers 8:47

Oh, alright, I'm just having to write a little bit of that down. I think I have seen Kozisek in some of the histories. You know, so that name does come to me. Now, the reason I asked you to talk not only is because of coming so early 1957

Del Morr 9:14

right

Nancy Lawthers 9:15

to Broomfield was this mysterious Broomfield Country Club, where you had an exercise class, if you would just talk about that.

Del Morr 9:27

Well,

Nancy Lawthers 9:27
first of all, where was it?

Del Morr 9:31
The building belonged to an artist named Illyan

Nancy Lawthers 9:42
I L?

Del Morr 9:45
I believe I L L Y A N. Now I may be wrong on that spelling. But he, his house was situated on
The edge of the lake. And it was a magnificent setting. And he painted portraits of many, many
famous Americans, including presidents. And they all had to come to the studio because of his
perfect light that came through those windows.

Nancy Lawthers 10:20
And this was the lake that's right over there by the back of the senior center.

Del Morr 10:26
No

Nancy Lawthers 10:26
no, a different lake

Del Morr 10:27
that lake is much farther north. It's up in the area of the Mormon church.

Nancy Lawthers 10:39
In Louisville?

Del Morr 10:40
Oh, no. In Broomfield.

Nancy Lawthers 10:42
In Broomfield?

Del Morr 10:43
Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 10:44
I guess I don't know what lake that is.

Del Morr 10:48

Well, I don't know what it's called. And I'm not sure that it really has a name. It was just the lake. Yes. And then, as the county grew, it disturbed his artistic nature. And so he sold the house and moved to a rocky crag. overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where he continued to paint.

Nancy Lawthers 11:23

Well, yes, that was better.

Del Morr 11:25

Right. And that building was turned into the clubhouse for the Broomfield Country Club. And an 18 hole golf course, was designed around the lake and around the wet building. And then it subsequently was sold to I believe the American Golf Association, and the development called Eagle Trace was in place up there, and it became Eagle Trace.

Nancy Lawthers 12:12

Oh Yes. All right. All right. Yes.

Del Morr 12:15

But our original yoga classes were held in the clubhouse.

Nancy Lawthers 12:23

Uh huh. And do you know the date. Do you remember the date?

Del Morr 12:36

It was probably 1970. or there abouts. Although I don't really have it written down.

Nancy Lawthers 12:49

Uh huh. And how long? Did you have that class?

Del Morr 12:53

Well, actually, I taught there. And then, as the club grew and became busier because we were having our class in what eventually ended up as a dining room. And so we moved to the Ranch Country Club, which is out on 120th.

Nancy Lawthers 13:17

Oh, alright

Del Morr 13:18

east of town.

Nancy Lawthers 13:19

Yes.

Del Morr 13:20

Yes. And we had classes, probably for a period of seven or eight years. And then I started a restaurant in Old Town, Arvada.

Nancy Lawthers 13:39

Yes, that was wonderful.

Del Morr 13:42

I bought an old barn. And we completely redid it and made it into a very charming place. And so I ran that restaurant for 11 years, and I didn't have time to teach classes in that period. And then after I sold the restaurant, some of the people who were in the original classes said, can we get the classes going again? So we did. And we were in the United Church and various places, any place that would give us a flat, empty surface. And then the senior center was developed. And they were in need of some type of fitness classes. And so I spoke with the director and I've been with the senior center ever since, even before it was taken over by the city. The senior center was an entity of its own for a number of years and then it came under the wing of the city of Broomfield

Nancy Lawthers 14:59

I see, was it always in this building.

Del Morr 15:02

No. It was in the old train station. Which was a tiny little building out west of 10th Avenue.

Nancy Lawthers 15:15

Yes,

Del Morr 15:15

darling little building.

Nancy Lawthers 15:17

Uh huh.

Del Morr 15:18

That was the first start of the senior center.

Nancy Lawthers 15:22

The railroad's called Zang's [unclear].

Del Morr 15:24

Yes. That's where it was.

Nancy Lawthers 15:28

Oh, for goodness sake. What had that building always been there? Or was that moved?

Del Morr 15:35

That was moved. And I don't remember when. But it was such a charming little building that nobody wanted to see it be destroyed.

Nancy Lawthers 15:50

Right.

Del Morr 15:51

But it was actually down. Near the railroad tracks, of course, in a train station. Very close to the old Broomfield Lumber Company. And the Grange.

Nancy Lawthers 16:11

Yes,

Del Morr 16:11

yes.

Nancy Lawthers 16:13

So the lumber company was down there too.

Del Morr 16:16

Oh, yes. Actually, the lumber company occupied what was Broomfield bank for many years when it was just a farming community. Yes. And then, when Mr. Huddart purchased many acres, and I don't know how many, he purchased the lumber company from a Denver society lady named Mrs. Monaghan,

Nancy Lawthers 16:54

Oh, for goodness sake.

Del Morr 16:55

Yeah, her husband was the I think the original owner of the lumber company, that Joe Huddart purchased a lumber company in a lot of land.

Nancy Lawthers 17:09

Oh, I see. Well, what about the Zangs? Did they live up in there too?

Del Morr 17:14

The Zangs were a very prominent family and I don't know where their original home was. But I'm assuming that Joe Huddart purchased his land from the Zang family.

Nancy Lawthers 17:35

Yes, I see.

Del Morr 17:37

Now, Dorothy Elliot, who is in our class, grew up on a farm, as well, north of Broomfield, but her family all belong to the Grange. And she would be an interesting lady to speak with, because I think she could tell you a lot about the Zangs.

Nancy Lawthers 17:59

Oh, that would be good. Yes, I'd like to do that. And she's in the early class.

Del Morr 18:05

Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 18:05

Oh, yes.

Del Morr 18:06

She is. The lady who does our counting for us when working with our weights? Yeah. That's right. Yes, her mother is still in the original farmhouse. Oh, all of the land right around the house, of course has been sold to developers. Her mother is still she's 90 and she's still in her home.

Nancy Lawthers 18:31

Oh, well, you have to be very interesting about the Grange. How did how did you get along with the original farming community as, well, interlopers almost?

Del Morr 18:45

Well, I think we probably were looked upon like interlopers, but actually, the original residents of Broomfield didn't want to see it change very much. And so they they were not pushing for a city. They somehow thought they could manage to have a bedroom community that would just stay so charming and sort of run itself. And they found out otherwise that you have to have tax money. But we had a tiny little post office down on the highway where everybody went to get their mail and the postmaster and his wife held forth there and they would call you on your ten party phone line. And say, Oh, you have a package. Looks like it's interesting.

Nancy Lawthers 19:53

Did you have rings on your telephone? I mean,

Del Morr 19:56

oh, yes, indeed we did.

Nancy Lawthers 19:58

Ring four, ring three? Yes.

Del Morr 20:01

And the two charming people were the telephone operators. Dr. Brunner's wife, Carrie and her sister in law Jessie Kozisek, the daughter of grandma Kozisek, were telephone operators. And

they always seemed to know, wherever you were in town. And if you've got a phone call, they'd call you at that person's house and say, I have a phone call for you.

Nancy Lawthers 20:35

Kept track of you

Del Morr 20:36

They did. And it was just delightful. We all loved it. We really did.

Nancy Lawthers 20:43

I expect you did. And you really got to know each other very well.

Del Morr 20:46

Oh, yes. Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 20:50

And how did people go to work? Did they go down the Boulder Turnpike?

Del Morr 20:56

Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 20:59

And how much did that cost?

Del Morr 21:02

Well, no, I don't remember. But I, I think it always was 50 cents. It might have been less. When the turnpike was originally erected. I spent a little bit less, but before they discontinued the charge, it was 50 cents.

Nancy Lawthers 21:27

No matter which direction you went, right. I see. Well. Did your husband work in Denver?

Del Morr 21:37

Downtown Denver

Nancy Lawthers 21:39

So he drove down the turnpike?

Del Morr 21:41

Yes, he was one of the commuters

Nancy Lawthers 21:44

were most of the people who lived in the bedroom community commuters to Denver?

Del Morr 21:49

Oh yes, because there are very few that new businesses in Broomfield it was the ones that had always been there. And not too many people, as we say they were more interested in having this lovely rural atmosphere where they lived. That was totally separate from where they worked.

Nancy Lawthers 22:22

As Yes, a very different mindset. Right? Yes. So Broomfield never developed, I guess, large office complex or shopping center or a by the train, track or lose great huge storage,

Del Morr 22:46

industrial buildings.

Nancy Lawthers 22:48

Buildings. Yes. What were they

Del Morr 22:50

Oh they weren't there

Nancy Lawthers 22:51

Or they weren't there?

Del Morr 22:52

Oh, no, that's newer. You could see the train from miles around. And you can also hear it.

Nancy Lawthers 23:01

All right. There were very few trees, right.

Del Morr 23:06

And no buildings. Just the little nucleus of buildings, right around the Grange and the old Broomfield Lumber Company. And it was just a little grocery store, the post office, the filling station

Nancy Lawthers 23:32

were the roads paved?

Del Morr 23:35

No, not many of them. Of course, within the development they were paved immediately,

Nancy Lawthers 23:49

They were?

Del Morr 23:49

Oh, yes, yes. But your lead roads in, like Sheridan Boulevard. It wasn't paved for many years.

Nancy Lawthers 24:02
How about 287?

Del Morr 24:04
It was paved, because that was considered the main drag to Boulder.

Nancy Lawthers 24:11
Oh it was?

Del Morr 24:11
Oh, yes. Through Lafayette.

Nancy Lawthers 24:15
Yes, that's right.

Del Morr 24:16
And then on into Boulder a two lane highway.

Nancy Lawthers 24:22
I think I probably was on it as a child. Anyway. Let me see what other gems of information I need. Oh, I know. I wanted to ask you about the changes that came about as you were living there, this lovely community, enjoying country living, then what happened?

Del Morr 24:45
Well, then, as I said, they realized that they needed some money to maintain streets and to for many years, we I had no policeman, no fire department. And they realized as the community grew, that these things were essential. And to do that they had to establish themselves and get a tax base and get a city charter and Al can tell you all about that he was on the original charter committee.

Nancy Lawthers 25:26
Oh, I'd like to hear that. Yeah. Right. Well, let's talk just a little bit longer. Why did you pick a yoga class?

Del Morr 25:40
Well, I had been interested in yoga personally, for many years, and I found it a very peaceful and restorative type of physical movement. And being the mother of five young children, I needed a little restoration.

Nancy Lawthers 26:16
Yes.

Del Morr 26:18

And I guess it just fit in with my idea of how fitness should be achieved. I knew that I didn't want to join a calisthenics class, for instance. And work out according to the numbers. That didn't appeal to me. And so I started taking yoga classes. And of course, I had to go to Denver for those.

Nancy Lawthers 26:54

Oh, I see. And then you learned so much. You came back and did it in Broomfield, right? Did somebody say well Del, you're so good.

Del Morr 27:06

Well, some of my friends became interested. And I said, Oh, come on over, we'll do it. And then people that I didn't know, called and said, Can I come? And then I sought out my favorite yoga instructor who had quite a nice reputation in the Denver area and asked her if she thought I could do it. And she approved and gave me her blessing. There was no such thing as certification for yoga instructors, when I started teaching, you have the blessing of your instructor who knew what you could do.

Nancy Lawthers 28:00

But you have to have certification. Now?

Unknown Speaker 28:03

You do. Yes. Now there's the Yoga Institute of America, and I believe headquarters in Los Angeles. And they have several branches. And then I think there's yoga International that also certified teachers, and you have to go and stay a week. Take instruction under the eye, the very watchful eye of a master

Nancy Lawthers 28:36

So I'd probably never pass huh. With five children, were there many other families that had 4, 5, 6 children?

Del Morr 28:52

Yes, there were several. All young children. There were very few teenagers in the original Broomfield development. Very few.

Nancy Lawthers 29:04

By that you mean from birth to about ten?

Del Morr 29:10

Just very few teenagers, and no high school.

Nancy Lawthers 29:14

Oh, because no teenagers, right.

Del Morr 29:18

In fact, the schools were all held in homes, actually. And we call them the cottage schools. And they were they were subsequently, the walls were rearranged, and they were sold as houses. They had a row of them down on First Avenue, and they were cottage schools.

Nancy Lawthers 29:40

Oh, now that's very interesting. That was the beginning of the schools

Del Morr 29:44

That's where our children went to school

Nancy Lawthers 29:46

Cottage schools so the different grades were in different houses right. Isn't that something then, as they grew up, then they, probably also population pressure was that it, that made them decide to build a school.

Del Morr 30:04

That's right.

Nancy Lawthers 30:05

And where was that?

Del Morr 30:08

One of the original schools was Emerald. Emerald Elementary. Yes. And then that was followed by Broomfield high school, and then Kohl Elementary.

Nancy Lawthers 30:24

Oh, so that very soon they had teenagers that needed to go to school

Unknown Speaker 30:29

that's right, that needed a high school to go to.

Nancy Lawthers 30:33

Well, when were the, what were the dates of the cottage schools? 70, no. 57 58?

Del Morr 30:45

Yes, yes.

Nancy Lawthers 30:46

Through. What?

Del Morr 30:49

Probably we had cottage schools for I would say at least seven or eight years

Nancy Lawthers 31:01

Oh. That's a long time for that kind of a school. Yes. And then they build the Emerald.

Del Morr 31:07

Right

Nancy Lawthers 31:10

Alright. What did the farming community do if they had children who wanted to go to high school, they went to Louisville?

Del Morr 31:19

Right. Or Lafayette have a high school as well. And some students went into Denver schools. Some of the boys went to Regis High School, which was a Jesuit high school on the edge of North Denver, right.

Nancy Lawthers 31:48

Were there churches to begin with, aside from that Methodist church over by the turnpike.

Del Morr 31:58

That church wasn't there. There was a small Methodist Church and the large Catholic Church, on Midway Boulevard was down in the basement of the bank. Before Yes, that's where they held their services. So it was pretty much go wherever you can find the space and I can afford to get gather your parishioners together.

Nancy Lawthers 32:37

Well, that's interesting, because I know the Episcopal Church started in somebody's basement.

Del Morr 32:42

Yes, yes.

Nancy Lawthers 32:44

But I had thought that the from seeing the flyer, or not flyer, booklet about the Methodist church that they had actually had a building.

Del Morr 32:54

But they did, it, but it was a small because I think Broomfield was largely a Methodist community, as a farming community. And I don't know where the small church might have been originally.

Nancy Lawthers 33:18

It's all very interesting.

Del Morr 33:19

Now, Dorothy Eliot will know. Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 33:22

So I need to talk her and I need to talk to Al. Yes.

Del Morr 33:27

Yes, I can tell you how the city developed. And,

Nancy Lawthers 33:30

yes, the fact that they finally said, Oh, we've got to have a charter.

Del Morr 33:34

Yes. Yeah. He will give you the full details on that.

Nancy Lawthers 33:41

Right. Well, it's always good to hear how the families and the wives lived in this little planned community because that was a very different kind of life. You couldn't walk very easily to the grocery could you?

Del Morr 33:59

Well, mainly because there wasn't any grocery

Nancy Lawthers 34:04

Oh dear!

Del Morr 34:06

the grocery too, started out in the basement of the bank. There was a very small grocery in old Broomfield there again by the lumber company. But most people who moved to the community wanted a supermarket type setup so they drove him to Arvada to shop. A lot of people drove into Arvada to go to church to back in those days. Yes. And we thought it was absolutely marvelous when we got one police officer. He was a wonderful Irishman. And that man had such a gift for communication. That there wasn't a teenage problem in our town, they thought so much of him. They didn't want to cause him problems.

Nancy Lawthers 35:09

That was wonderful. Yeah.

Del Morr 35:12

And we had a one police officer. And then we really felt like we were big time when we got a stoplight.

Nancy Lawthers 35:21

Where's this stoplight?

Del Morr 35:26

It was on Midway? And I don't know the street, side streets. [unclear] First stoplight.

Nancy Lawthers 35:45

The first stoplight. When was that?

Del Morr 35:48

Oh, that was probably in about 1966.

Nancy Lawthers 35:58

Broomfield was growing up.

Del Morr 36:00

Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 36:06

Yes, well, I'm sure there are more things you could tell me. But maybe if I think about them, maybe I could come back and ask.

Del Morr 36:14

Oh, sure. Sure.

Nancy Lawthers 36:23

Talk again, about the cottage schools, how they look just like,

Del Morr 36:29

oh the cottage schools were built to look exactly like the other homes in the neighborhood. Although the interior plan was opened up a little to permit classrooms, rather than bedrooms. And they knew that they would only be used on a temporary basis until they could get the elementary school constructed.

Nancy Lawthers 37:03

So the children had to go to the basement to have class?

Del Morr 37:07

they used the whole building. Yes. And then the houses were taken over again. And the I don't know if it was the original builder, or perhaps a contractor went in and make divided them up into bedrooms and smaller rooms for families to move into. But they looked just like other houses.

Nancy Lawthers 37:37

That is something. It really is.

Del Morr 37:39

It is yeah.

Nancy Lawthers 37:42

All right. One other thing where exactly on midway, can remember where the bank was? When you said the church was in the basement. Where the church is now?

Del Morr 37:57

No, no. It was down in the basement of what used to be the Empire Savings Bank, which was Broomfield's first bank. And that was on Midway. And on the north west corner of Midway and Nickel, what would be Nickel.

Nancy Lawthers 38:28

Oh, I see, way down there.

Del Morr 38:29

Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 38:31

And that building has gone too

Del Morr 38:35

No, it's still a bank

Nancy Lawthers 38:36

oh, it is

Del Morr 38:37

yes. It's been sold several times.

Nancy Lawthers 38:40

But it's still a bank.

Del Morr 38:41

Yes.

Nancy Lawthers 38:44

Well, that gives me a good idea. And thank you very much.

Del Morr 38:47

You're welcome

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