

J. Paul Breeding

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00:00 Paul

A couple of reasons to move here. One was a friend who had moved here; I wanted to be close to her, but also, I wanted to be closer to the Denver cultural scene, I am not talking about the City of Denver, but the greater Denver area. I'll talk about this when we actually talk. Are we talking now?

00:29 David Allison

I've got you recording. The way that you started was so beautiful. I just love that, so I just started recording.

00:36 Paul

Well, you're gonna edit down what you want anyhow. Denver, Broomfield, Westminster, Lafayette, Arvada, they have a cohesive feel to them. And two of the things that I think really make them cohesive - not just your geographical location; that is determined but something else - but all these cities I think, due to the council of regional governments, they all contribute a lot to public art, public free art. I get mad at people when they say "Oh, I want to go to Denver but have to deal with the traffic" Do you realize how much that you receive that is free? All you have to do is show up. And not just Denver. I mean, I don't get to Fort Collins very often, but Greeley, Loveland, Longmont, Lafayette, Erie, the other part is a fabulous trail connection.

01:42 David Allison

Yes.

01:43 Paul

And the best thing about the trails, too, is most of them connect. You can really go.... Well, actually, I don't know how, trail-wise, how you get to that. I don't know what it's called.... but there's a trail that runs sorta along the Continental Divide from Wyoming to New Mexico.

02:03 David Allison

Wow. Amazing.

02:04 Paul

I'm not going to do that. (Laughter) That we are sure of.. But there's such an appreciation of the region, not geographic and archaeological, I guess partly geological, but there's so much here. And all the communities, and when I say the communities, I'm also talking about the elected officials of these communities. They recognize what they have, they capitalize on it, and they tend to make it available to their citizens. Yes, frankly, biasedly. I think Broomfield does a better job of that than anybody else. But, I am a little biased there..One of the reasons I'm biased is a simple reason. When I first moved here, the sidewalk along Main Street, on the east side of Main Street had a lot of curves in it. Sometimes when it's curved away from the highway, there was a park bench there. Sometimes when it curves away from the highway. there's a tree or shrubbery or something. Someone long ago said, "it's cheaper just to build this sidewalk straight." Someone else said, "but it'll be more appealing if it were curved."

03:20 David Allison

Right.

03:21 Paul

A simple, simple thing and I would guess that 99% of the people in Broomfield wouldn't even recognize anything about it.

03:30 David Allison

I'm sure Yeah,

03:32 Paul

But there's little things that just make such a difference. Okay, now I'm going to get all right. I don't need that. The holiday lighting on Midway, on the city-owned buildings. That's a helluva lot of work and it's probably a fair amount of money but it's done. The flowerpots on the corners.

04:04 David Allison

Oh, yes.

04:06 Paul

I have two friends back East, both of whom were heads of Parks. They were the head of the Parks Departments in their particular counties. And I showed them this and they said, "well that never would have worked back East." "Why not? You have a longer growing season and you're at lower altitude" He said, because people would steal them.

04:24 David Allison

Oh my,

04:25 Paul

Well, if you look at the weight of ours, someone's gonna have a lot of work to steal these.

04:29 David Allison

It'd be pretty hard to get those out of there.

04:33 Paul

It's that kind of things that aren't dramatic, but they're there every year and you can count on them and they're uplifting. It gives you a sense of pride in a community. We'll talk about the downtown; doesn't seem like it's ever gonna happen, maybe later. But the other thing is, every one that I've encountered from the place where you renew your license plates to the building supervisors. you go in, and they say, "How can I help you?" And they mean it! I know I'm not afraid, I'm not a shrinking violet, so I write off memos; But I get a response and often it's an explanation of why they can't do something. Other times, they say, "we can do that", "we can help you out here." That feels like it's more, I guess, for our current term, user-friendly than any other communities I lived in. And yes, if you haven't figured it out yet, I could be a cheerleader for Broomfield. (Laughter)

Also, a complainer. I think we're finally going to get some action on this. I'm not sure if you're familiar with it or not, but there's a beautiful sculpture in front of the community center - a raindrop.

06:15 David Allison

Yes, a big teardrop.

06:16 Paul

It's called, "Water Is Life." That deserves a plaque saying what the name of it is, who the artist was, when it was put in. They need it for the artist, they need it for me. It's not fair to either one of us to not do that. Both the mayor and the city manager, more than a year ago, promised, "we'll get right on that, consider it done" It ain't done. But, I did talk to the head of the art department. not sure what her title is. Megan somebody, that is a city employee involved with art. We still have a plaque out there.. They are creating a booklet of all of the public art in Broomfield and hooray, hooray, because well we paid for it, number one in dollars; but it's important to recognize the artist and it's important for me to know something. I'm not an artist, and I don't really know much about it, except that that's a fabulous piece of art. Have you ever been there at night?

07:28 David Allison

Oh, it's gorgeous with the lights coming out and everything.

06:16 Paul

Well, you press the little button on the northeast side and they change colors. I mean, it's beautiful by itself, but then you go "Wow." Did you also know that the mobile that's inside - same artist?

07:46 David Allison

Really?

06:16 Paul

Yep.

07:48 David Allison

Huh, I didn't know that.

07:50 Paul

I wouldn't have either if I hadn't gone online and looked up "Water Is Life" and then it showed some of his other works. Well, I'll be damned. That, too, needs a plaque. This is not a hard thing to do. Until you get the bronze plaque done, print it out on here, put a piece of laminated scotch tape ito it. This is not rocket science. Okay, enough of the bitching.. Well, I have another bitching that I'm gonna save for later.

08:24 David Allison

All right. Well, I'm ready for it.(Laughter)

08:28 Paul

Okay, Broomfield sponsors, public art, trails and facilities. Okay. The recreational facilities here. Paul Derda and the community center. If you've been to both I'm sure you have.

08:44 David Allison

I have Yes. Beautiful, beautiful facilities.

08:46 Paul

Their names reflect something. Paul Derda is a recreation center, that is its focus. It also has rooms you can rent for things. Broomfield Community Center is the community center, which also has some recreation facilities. But your focus is different and that's good. They're both both big assets to the community and they're well attended. They're so awesome. And the other recreational facilities , the ball fields.

09:31 David Allison

Oh, yes. Yeah.

09:32 Paul

I mean, the soccer fields, the softball fields. What's the difference between a softball field and a baseball field?

09:41 David Allison

I couldn't tell you.

09:43 Paul

Well, then you're the wrong person to ask because I don't know either. I don't know where they are, either. I just think that baseball is a harder game, and the ball is harder. and also harder to hit. Yes.

10:01 David Allison

Yes. Smaller

10:07 Paul

One of the other pluses of Broomfield is we're just geographically correct. It's the right distance in any direction and it's 15 miles to the mountains. It's 15 miles to Longmont. I mean, there's just so much here.

10:35 Paul

Well, I might do this better if I could read. (Laughter) I'm thinking something, David, are you familiar with the NPR show? I don't think it's on any more, called, "Car Talk"

10:51 David Allison

Oh, yeah. "Click and Clack"

10:53 Paul

At the end of each show, they would say, "Well, you've wasted a perfectly good 55 minutes listening to us." (Laughter) David, I'm saying you're wasting your good. ...No, I know.

11:06 David Allison

Not at all, this is good Thank you, Paul

11:14 Paul

You're running out of tape on these things?

11:17 David Allison

What's that?

11:18 Paul

You don't run out of tape?

11:17 David Allison

No, it'll keep going. I have no problems with storage space.

11:26 Paul

One of the other features that Broomfield has, and I think they still have, is if you're over some age, I think maybe 62, you could volunteer for Broomfield, if you own your house, you could volunteer and work off part of your real estate taxes. Did you know that?

11:46 David Allison

I had no idea.

11:48 Paul

You have to work a minimum of 70 hours a year and you get reimbursed at minimum wage.

11:56 David Allison

Hmm.

11:58 Paul

If you work 80 hours, you still get paid for 70. You have to work 70. So, I said that sounds interesting, but only if it's something I want to do. So I went and asked about it and they said, "Well, you can stack

books for the library. You can do fingerprinting for the Police Department". I said, No. I don't think so. "What do you want to do?" I want to do something with cameras and computers. "Well, we don't have anything" Okay. And I get a call back that says "maybe we do have a job for you." I think this is the interesting part of Broomfield. They said, "You know, we've got all these photographs. since we became a city." Rose, Rose, Rose...

12:50 David Allison
Rosann Doran?

12:50 David Allison
Yeah, Rosann Doran. There were shoe boxes and manila envelopes. "Can you put them all into a complete computer file for us?" "I can if you show me how." So they give me a cubicle at City Hall with my own name on it somewhere? I don't know where it is now. Oh, there it is. And they gave me a computer and a scanner. So for a lot of people, this is a simple, boring data entry. But for me, moving here, this is the history of Broomfield. I get to see all these characters. And of course, Broomfield, at that point, was so incestuous, you see all the same characters over and over.

13:39 Paul
Tom Deland. He was such a camera hog. (Laughter) An interesting side story to Tom Deland. I was at a post office and somebody came over, started talking to me like he knew me and I said, "I don't think I know you." "Are you Tom Deland's father?" I said no. But "well, you look just like him." So then I happened to run into Tom, and I mentioned that; from then on, he called me Bob. (Laughter)

14:09 Paul
You know, all those kinds of things are what make the community. These aren't some bureaucrats. These are real people. These are people who live up the street or down the street or across the street, across town. These are people you run into at the grocery store, the library, you run into them. We'll probably lose that at some point. But I'm 85, so it's not going to happen in my lifetime. And so, anyhow, thank you, I get all these photos done. Okay, now what? Well, every park, and at that point, we had 65 parks, every park has its own website. "Would you go out and photograph all the parks?"

14:54 David Alison
Wow.

14:55 Paul
That's like Brer Rabbit, throwing me in that Briar Patch.

15:00 David Alison
That's a big job.

15:02 Paul
Yeah, well I can't think of the name of it ... Oh, Miners Park. Do you know where Miners Park is?

15:11 David Allison

Never been there.

15:12 Paul

Well, shame on you, but you rank among about 98% of the people who live in Broomfield.

15:20 David Allison

Okay, fair enough.

15:21 Paul

It's right on the very edge of the Broomfield/Superior line, on the west side of Flatirons Marketplace. You can't see it from the road; you have to walk in.

15:32 David Allison

Is that where the big plaque is for the men that were killed at the mine?

15:35 Paul

Exactly.

15:37 David Allison

I've been there then.

15:38 Paul

Good for you. Okay, you get a star (Laughter). It's a very somber place.

15:44 David Allison

Yes.

15:45 Paul

There's a cottonwood tree, there's a plaque, there's a bench.

15:47 David Allison

Yep. It's actually a beautiful spot, really.

15:51 Paul

You sit on that bench there, and I'm getting cold chills talking about that. But I asked him to see all these little obscure parks around and take pictures. In the process, you get to know the city more. That was a great assignment.

I mean, I've also...with our elections there's a clear white envelope that your vote goes in. Well, they recycle them. So one of my jobs was to go through and any that have been at a corner torn or mutilated, you can't use, you recycle. The fact that somebody made the effort to do that, rather than just putting them in the landfill and buying new ones, that's a good thing.

16:40 David Allison

Yes.

16:41 Paul

One year, they were digitizing all the people who, all the businesses who, challenged their real estate tax. Boring, boring job for most people. If I had to do it 40 hours a week I'd quit. But I go in when I feel like it. I do as long as I want. And again, you're saying? Well, I'm not really scanning these in my mind. But I didn't know that business was there. I didn't know this business was there. So all these things are so informational.

17:16 David Allison

Yeah.

17:17 Paul

If you had to do this 40 hours a week, every week, it could be incredibly boring. And you probably wouldn't do good government, right? I also did shredding for the Health and Human Services, because their files are confidential material, as expected. I'd do that every one or two months; I'd gather all this data, and I grind it into little things. They stopped it and I think the city is wrong. They stopped using volunteers for that; they hired a service and that's not good. Volunteers more than anything, need to be appreciated, recognized and appreciated. At many levels. Broomfield does a great job of that. Some levels that don't like that. That needed to be done, like every six or eight weeks. I would go ahead and do it. That was probably the most boring of all jobs, because it's hard to read anything that was all in little tiny pieces. And they not only shredded like mine, but they hit that x read, so it puts it in limbo. I have no desire to read it.

What I got out of that was, first of all, I met some other people, more people. And okay, today I'm going in to do this. So I come home with a satisfaction, a sense of being needed, a sense of contributing. Incidentally, for this, and you, I do talk with a bit of a lisp. That's who I am. I've been doing this for 85 years, so too late to change. So now I've lived in this house for about 10 years. So there's this other thing that I think the state of Colorado provides us, but they will pay the taxes on the first, I think, \$100,000 worth of value on your house. So I looked at the numbers. What is going to benefit me more financially? So I take the senior tax exemption and I still volunteer. It was nice to get, you know, it's somewhere in late November, early December, you get a check for \$700. And you say well, what do I need now? I'm gonna need a new computer. I think I need this. It's almost like found money. But that was never the reason to do it.

19:56 David Allison

Right.

19:58 Paul

The reason to do it is because I want to contribute.

20:01 David Allison

It's the community that you care about, yeah.

20:03 Paul

I think the community cares about me. It's definitely a two-way street.

20:10 Paul

It's how.. new time. (Laughter) Certainly, now I do Meals on Wheels. Not regularly, because when I left a full time job in 1986 I never ever, ever wanted to ask someone, "could I have the day off?" So, I substitute and still end up working four or five days a month for Meals on Wheels. Last Wednesday, not this week, prior week. I'm at the gym on a treadmill. It's about 9:30 in the morning, and I get an email or text, I don't remember, from Michelle, who's with Senior Services. Can you do today? Sure. yeah I go do that. Sometimes, you know, in a week, "are you available next Tuesday or Thursday" or whatever? I say," sure." To me the beauty of that one. Number one is I'm not obligated any day. The other is I never know where I'm going. I mean, sometimes they'll say, "Well, it's route three, I don't know what route three is. Route three is when I get there, and they have a piece of paper that these are the addresses. And you go do that. Again, very satisfying.

21:32 David Allison

Yeah. Do you talk to the folks that you bring the meals to?

21:36 Paul

I'm getting to that; don't rush me.

21:40 David Allison

Sorry.

21:41 Paul

(Laughter) You do whatever you want.

21:43 Paul

Some, particularly in some of the apartment complexes, but in some of the others too. I think on some occasions, I may be the only person they talk to that day; other occasions they weren't talking and I will spend a little more time with him. But, I got all these other hungry people. I gotta go. But no, it's rewarding. I tell people, " I don't do this for you. I do this for me, because I'm gonna get old one day. And when I do, I'm just building up karma points, that's all." It's one in the bank, you know, it's not that. And that's about the only real volunteering I do now for the City. I also volunteer one day a week at the Forney transportation museum....

22:33 David Allison

Oh yeah, I am familiar.

22:34 Paul

And when we started off, they had a program where they were fixing up huge bicycles and giving them to poor communities. While somehow, the staff person who did that moved on and it had fallen apart. So now we're colleagues. Primarily what we've been doing is restoring (produce??) motorcycles. But we're sort of caught up on that. So now we're just going through the bicycle collection. Bring them in, cleaning them all up, helping make them look as good as they can and put it back. And that too is satisfying to me. But I was a member of Forney for about 15 years and I didn't know they had these

kinds of programs. So you get to wander among all these old things and you're not on the outside looking in. You're on the inside and that too was satisfying.

23:38 David Allison

Absolutely.

23:40 Paul

Okay, okay. City Council or whoever.... the wisdom of putting the auditorium and the library connected. It's just a stroke of genius. Just a stroke of genius, because they're so compatible with one another. And, again, it's that sense of community. What a nice auditorium. I mean, it looks like in hindsight, at least, the First Bank Center was not the wisest decision to make. But they were bold enough to make it and okay, so you made a mistake, failure is inevitable. It's what you do next that matters.

24:38 David Allison

Absolutely.

24:40 Paul

Supposedly a saying of Thomas Edison, "I didn't fail but just tried 1000 things that didn't work."

24:46 David Allison

Yeah. Yeah.

24:49 Paul

I also do some boat building. I've talked a little bit to others about you working with fiberglass, working with epoxy and I said, "if you screw up, don't worry about it." Just go buy another piece of plywood and start over. And when you screw up, don't consider it your loss, consider it tuition. It's the cost of learning. Yeah, no big deal. And of all the boats I built, are there mistakes? Absolutely. Am I going to point them out to you? No way. (Laughter)

Sorta aside from that, I had two recent things happen. Five years ago, a little sailboat that I built, some guy in San Francisco, wanted to buy it and I said, sure. I've used it for five years, I'll build something else. Well, he bought it, took it to San Francisco, and never used it. Five years later, he never used it because he had some medical problem. He sold it to somebody else. And the things that I build, I usually put the designer's name on it, my name and the year was launched. So this guy, he's talking to somebody else in San Francisco, a younger person. This guy contacted me, he sends me pictures of it. He sent me videos that other people took of it sailing. There was a very, very good feeling.

26:22 David Allison

Yeah.

26:24 Paul

I didn't sell it. It's just in the hands of somebody else now, but I'm still connected to it. Right? And so life is good, David.

26:31 David Allison

I love that.

26:32 Paul

Life is good.

26:33 David Allison

What a beautiful thing. That's a neat way to put it.

26:38 Paul

My one friend keeps saying "well, you're right beside the high school, why don't you teach boatbuilding there?" No, I don't want to teach. I want to do it at my pace, because building and teaching are two different roles.

26:56 David Allison

Yes.

27:00 Paul

Something that has nothing to do with Broomfield, but it's related to this conversation. See this picture here?

27:07 David Allison

Yes.

27:08 David Allison

Get up and get a good look at it.

27:13 Paul

It's Mount Hood in the background, in Oregon or Washington, or wherever it is. Now turn around and look at the one on the wall. Do you know that one?

27:30 David Allison

Oh, wow.

27:31 Paul

Okay. There's a high school in Bailey Colorado 8000 feet and they created a thing called Platte Canyon Yacht Club.

27:46 David Allison

Okay.

27:47 Paul

Two teachers decided that they were going to build a Trimaran and enter into a race that went from Tacoma to Port Townsend, Washington.

28:01 David Allison

Wow.

28:02 Paul

70 miles in 48 hours. A former sergeant in the Broomfield Police Department, a boating friend of mine, (name?? Rick Canfield??) said, you know, "you gotta watch this." This feature they did on one of the local stations, was talking about this group and I looked at it and they were pretty early in the process. But I saw the technique they were using, so I called this person and said. "I've built a few boats, that same technique. Would you like any help?" "Yes!" I said, Well, you know what time are classes over and I'll come down after classes. Bailey is 60 miles away.

28:42 David Allison

Okay. Yeah.

28:42 Paul

They said, come down when you can, we'll interrupt classes. When I went in, and I don't think this is happening in a big city school ever, walked through the door. The receptionist was probably 50, 60 feet away. She said you must be Paul. No security, you know, and that particular school had a tragedy before Columbine. Are you familiar with that?

29:12 David Allison

No, I'm not.

29:13 Paul

Well, I don't know the details, but they had someone come in and captured a classroom, killed a couple of people, raped a couple of the girls, but....I went and what I saw that, I thought that needed best, was simply someone to create triage. You've got to do this, before you do this, before you do this. So as I'm saying this, the teacher is writing this on the board. 18 school kids, three teachers and suddenly my role has changed completely. I'm now directing things, I'm not doing. Doing is easier. That was incredibly, incredibly satisfying. I would just go down one day a week. We'd do things and I would always leave a list of what I wanted done by next week. "Mr. Paul, what do you want me to do?" "Mr. Paul, what do we do next?" incredibly satisfying. They had to get it ready for sea trials by March of that year. And once they took it to California, that was this picture and it was a drone shot. And then the race started in early June and this was the beginning of the race. So the center hull was 40 feet long.

30:50 David Allison

Wow.

30:51 Paul

It has to be assembled in seven pieces. On site. incredible. I am an 80 year old guy with three three well-educated people. I don't know, I think I was 18 kids, that I had inincredibly satisfying.

31:18 David Allison

What a great story. I have a question about it. So looking at that photo, the oars.....

31:29 Paul
the paddles.

31:30 David Allison
Thank you.

31:34 Paul
Good. We'll make you nautically correct.

31:35 David Allison
Yes. I appreciate that. It looks like they have to be just right in the right spot, so they don't knock each other as...

31:43 Paul
That was part of it, Because here, some are paddling on both sides, but you need clearance enough between the hulls that you can paddle. Now generally, people switch back and it was not a real problem. One of the interesting things, we made seats, making them with all the right spacing. But then about all the kids individualized their little space. They would have a place, a little hanger or basket, to put their personal things. And one of the things that the kids concentrated on was picking a music list to be playing the whole time.

32:26 David Allison
Oh, funny.

32:27 Paul
And in fact, one of the students was then on CBS. She won some kind of science award because she developed a way to charge and continually play the music. They did a tribute on CBS Morning or some CBS show came in and did a story on her. She was one of the paddlers and her sister was also one of the paddlers. The sister was a senior that year. And one of the days that I was there, and kids were all in classes, but I was organizing things. If anybody came into that room, I said, "Are you here to work?" And so a woman came and said, "Yeah, well, my daughters are in this. Let me just teach you how to coat wood, coat plywood, with epoxy. Here's an old shirt you can put on. "Okay, I'm done that." Well, let me show you how to lay down fiberglass tape to joints, and just about that time, her oldest daughter came into the room. And I said, "Teach your mother how to do this." There was that occasion where the child is teaching the parent. There was another occasion where an older man came in, not quite my age, but came and said, "I'm a woodworker Can I help you?" Of course. With the question, "can I help?" There's only one answer.

33:56 David Allison
Yes (Laughter)

33:57 Paul

And he said, "Well, my grandson's a carpenter, but he's out of work right now. Would it be alright if he helped?" Well, yes. Well, when the two of them came in, the grandson taught the grandfather.

34:09 David Allison

Oh, wow.

34:11 Paul

That chokes me up, even now. It was such a wonderful experience. One day there was a school holiday. The kids came in so they could all work all day. This was an amazing, amazing thing to me. They all had these (phones) in their hip pockets. Never once during the day they ever see one come out.

34:35 David Allison

Wow. Wow.

34:36 Paul

That is a miracle.

34:38 David Allison

I will tell you that I've never heard of that before.(Laughter)

34:42 Paul

It was so gratifying and they said, " if you hadn't come along, we would have never met our deadlines."

34:48 David Allison

It's amazing.

34:49 Paul

So there was no question that it was a positive experience. That has nothing to do with Broomfield.

34:57 David Allison

No, I love it. It's a great story.

34:59 Paul

Well, it's a great picture. This was the beginning of it. They did it, I think, in 17 hours. It starts at seven o'clock at night. You paddle through the night. You cannot have any motorized unit on the boat and you can't get any help from anybody.

When the TV station did the story on them early on, they asked, what about going to the bathroom? That is the least of your problems. Nature will take care of that; you'll figure out a way to go to the bathroom and they did. They pulled ashore. Boys are one way, girls are the other way; get back into boat and start paddling. The next year, we decided - I was part of this - but it was their leadership, we're going to make it a catamaran, two hulls, I think, 56 feet long, eight tall.. So we had to make a couple new hulls, figuring out how to do all this. When they did it the second year, they trimmed three off their time.

36:07 David Allison

Wow, wow.

36:08 Paul

Well, I don't know how much you know about boats but displacement hulls are those that actually sit in water, not planing across the top of the water. The speed is the square root of 1.34 times the length of the hull. So the longer the hull, the faster it is. Well, you have less wetted surface, you have less resistance and that's a nautical formula. I don't understand the formula, but I know the formula. And then they gave up that project, they gave the boat away to a deaf and dumb school in Idaho. I believe it was in Idaho and the teachers were just burnt out. That community was really behind it. The families went along. It's one of the highlights of my life.

37:16 Paul

Very cool

37:18 Paul

But again, it didn't cost me anything? All I had to do was show up.

36:23 David Allison

Yeah, just be there.

37:24 Paul

And then somebody put me in charge. (Laughter) How foolish of them. Because most schools don't have a shop anymore, right? So they actually took the science lab. And, I think, Home Depot or Lowe's or somebody donated the wood; they made tables. This is what's embarrassing. Tables about this high to work to work. But the kids boom, They'd jump around the table and it hurt my knees. It hurt my hips. It hurt every part of my body. Yes, great experience.

Let's go back to the topic at hand.

38:09 David Allison

Yes, good..

38:11 Paul

Are these the microphones?

38:15 David Allison

Those are the microphones.

38:19 Paul

Library wrote to him for me. Okay. What's wrong with the City? Yes. Kevin Standbridge used to be the assistant, 15 years ago, I had a meeting with Kevin and it went very well, and Bette Erickson, about downtown.. We've made a lot of progress. We now have murals in front of the old Safeway building that says where it's gonna be, that's all we have. They want to put a pond down. I'm a waterman. I grew up

near the Chesapeake Bay. I build boats. I do these things. A pond is a dumb idea. the cost to put it in, takes up valuable real estate, maintenance, goose shit. That is, to me, the biggest problem they have to resolve with the downtown, not just the downtown, the whole city, everywhere. You got to do something with the geese. For me, kill them. But in this environmentally conscious community that we live in, not a chance. No, don't kill them. Reduce the herd, reduce the flock. And I think Denver has done some of this, actually killed some and used the meat for the homeless or for the rescue. Don't waste it.

40:02 David Allison

Yeah, the City Park down there did that..

40:05 Paul

Yeah. Well, they haven't solved a problem in City Park. they've lessened it. Are you familiar with City Park and that area?

40:09 David Allison

Yeah, I worked at the Museum of Nature and Science for a number of years.

40:13 Paul

So you're talking about Denver City Park?

40:15 David Allison

Yeah.

40:17 Paul

Great area. Beautiful. So we have to address the goose problem. Centennial, Colorado's got a nice lake. Beautiful, rich area. No goose droppings. I asked one of the maintenance workers there, "How come?" He was pretty reluctant to answer, but he said, "we treat the grass with something that makes them sick." A recovering alcoholic, says one of the solutions to defeat alcoholism is to feel if you drink alcohol, oh, you're gonna get sick. How often do I want to get sick?

41:05 David Allison

Never.

41:07 Paul

Yeah. I don't know if that's the solution either. I don't know what the solution is, but we have to address that. You go to the library and I think the City pretty frequently goes with a power washer on the sidewalks. It is still a mess. You really can't walk in the grass because you can't see where it is,,you know. I'm all for getting along with nature, but somehow, they have no natural predators. The dogs are good. The case is the problem is from here to here. They don't do anything to solve the problem. But they're fun to watch; it's fun to watch the dogs at work. (laughter)

Downtown, I mean, one of my letters was to take a lesson from Westminster. When they tore down the Westminster Mall. How many years ago, 15 years ago? It's coming along? It's not done. I think it will eventually be done and I think most people will be unsatisfied. And part of it is not their fault, not the

City's fault or whoever. It takes years and years and years. Go to Downtown Longmont; 287. a major US highway runs right through the middle of it. Pain in the neck for drivers, but it's a real downtown.

42:40 David Allison

Absolutely.

42:42 Paul

We're not going to have that. 30, 40 years from now, 30, 40 years from when our downtown is completed, it'll feel like a downtown. But you can't just recreate that 150 years of history instantly. So my list is done, what do you want to know? (Laughter)

43:05 David Allison

Well, I'm curious.....

42:42 Paul

If you're curious. In this particular little block between Miramonte and the park? Yeah. I'm the oldest living male.

43:16 David Allison

Are you really? Wow. Okay,

43:18 Paul

We had one but he passed away. So I moved up in rank.

43:21 David Allison

Nice. Nice. So, tell me a little bit more about how you came to Bromfield.

43:26 Paul

Oh, I forgot that. Yeah. Just came by car

43:28 David Allison

You came by car. Good. (Laughter) Okay. What brought you here?

43:35 Paul

A car. (Laughter) Well, I prefaced this earlier saying that I wanted to move closer to the greater Denver cultural areas. Also, I never minded driving from Colorado Springs to Denver to go to save or to sort of Chez Artiste or the Art Museum, whatever. I dreaded driving home tired. It was probably even dangerous. But a friend of mine moved here and I looked over and I knew sorta what I wanted. I wanted a single family home, and okay, you can get up again.

44:21 David Allison

All right.

44:24 Paul

Because, look at this picture.

44:25 David Allison

Oh, wow.

44:27 Paul

Okay, I built that boat.

44:28 David Allison

It's a beautiful boat

44:29 Paul

20 foot long. It would only fit in the garage diagonally, which meant that I had to leave the \$20,000 car sit outside, so the \$10,000 boat could sit inside. But I didn't build the car, I built the boat. I'm going to show you a model of it before you leave.

44:44 David Allison

I'd love to see it.

44:50 Paul

So, I wanted a house where the garage could be bumped out and shortly after I got here, I did that. This fits sort of what I wanted, and matter of fact, I looked at this house in October of whatever year, and rejected it. Cabinets that....it had a really ugly fireplace. They had an open house in March, they had put a new roof, new carpet, new kitchen, two new beds, new windows all the way around. new garage door, new front door. new furnace, new hot water heater. I bought it that day. It still had the ugly fireplace.(Laughter) But I've had that removed and put something more interesting in place. So it fit my wants to a great degree. It gave me probably more house than I need. The exact house that I want. So first of all, I'm from the East Coast. I'm from Maryland, central Maryland. I lived in Colorado long enough to say, when I moved here in '96, my goal was to see the West. Well, there's a hell of a lot of West. But I'm still working on it. I've seen a lot of it. I'm still working on it.

So I didn't really know anything about Broomfield as a community at that point. But I liked where it was located. I liked the house, it was affordable without me ending up being house poor. I could afford this and still afford to do the things that I like. Actually, I often tell people I'm a wealthy guy. I just don't have a lot of money. But I am. I left the cardiologist this morning. I've got enough money to do the things that I want to do. I want to live a rather simple life and enjoy it. So far I do.

So I didn't pick Broomfield, but I looked at houses for six months and then with the improvements that had been done to this, it just felt right. And I've made a lot of minor improvements since I've been here. But I didn't know anything about the City, but it seemed like about the right size city. You know, and then as I've been here and everything we've already talked about, going through all those photograph;. learning where all the parks are; learning about the public art; learning about.....Of course libraries are wonderful everywhere, but ours, we have a great library. We also got the Front Range library right over here. You got the Lafayette library over here, you got the Boulder library here. You got the Denver library here. I mean, and I'm not a learned person, but having access to that is a big deal. I mean, I think it's a big deal. But that would have been probably also true if you lived in Arvada or Lafayette; it's

the greater community, which makes this community so good. And next to a large enough community with Denver being the hub, that you can have things like the Denver Art Museum.. Are you familiar with the Kirkland?

48:40 David Allison

Yes.

48:42 Paul

You're a good man.

48:43 David Allison

Good place.

48:45 Paul

How would you describe the Kirkland?

48:48 David Allison

Oh boy, I mean, it's got so many different... the furniture...

49:02 Paul

I mean, the old Kirkland.

49:04 David Allison

It's just kind of like a wonderland of things to see. I mean, it really is incredible.

49:07 Paul

I've taken a lot of people there. They're always dazzled.

49:13 David Allison

Yeah.

49:14 Paul

How do you describe it? I'll tell you how to describe it. Get in the car with me, we're going to go there (Laughter)....because I don't know, it's so unique. And the thing about the old building, it was so personal. The new building is in the right place. It's a great building,,,,,

49:34 David Allison

Bigger space, all those things....

49:35 Paul

But it's an institution now. I still go and I still like being there. I like showing off what little bit of knowledge I have. Did you also know that the building is heated and cooled by 39 geothermal wells?

49:52 David Allison

I did not know that. Wow.

49:54 Paul

A little piece of information for you. Okay, your question: "what brought me here?". Well, I've told you everything I know. What else was on your list?

50:08 David Allison

No, I think, I think that's pretty good.

50:12 Paul

Well, I could talk about me for a long time. Not much of it's worth it. But you. Tell me a bit more about you. What groups are you involved with? I don't know that I'm involved with any particular groups, other than the volunteer work..I'm pretty severely hearing impaired. This 's a very, very good situation here. Quiet. There's nobody else talking. There's a lot of sound absorbing materials. And you're in bright light, so, this is fine. But a group setting, in a group of three. I'm lost. You can probably figure, I'm not necessarily a shy person. But if you're in a group, and you can't keep up, you'll be a hermit. And I find very hard. I've been wearing hearing aids for 40 years, I've probably been hearing impaired all my life. I don't want to become a hermit. So basically, I pick and choose the environments that I'm in. The night I met you. I had absolutely no idea at all what anyone was saying, except the person right beside me, I couldn't even see who was talking. But I am still intuitive.. I'm not going to allow myself to drop out; by age, at some point, that will happen anyhow, but not for a while. What do you like about Broomfield? How about everything, except for the goose poop? (Laughter) Just tell me more about your family, friends and activities. I've told you that I've covered that....

52:16 David Allison

You have a granddaughter. I learned.

52:18 Paul

Well, actually that story has nothing to do with Broomfield, except that she loves it too. She came out between semesters about 10 or 11 years ago, for a month. Here's an 80 year old guy, 75 year old at the time, with a 21 year old granddaughter who's willing to give a month of her time to spend with me. We had a great time. We traveled over a lot of the state and we saw things. In fact, we went to Eldorado Park and so I won't embarrass her too much, but she ever preferred to sleep late. I'm an early bird. But we went to Eldorado Park, the Canyon, one afternoon and she said, " I really would like to see this at sunrise." So okay, gladly. "But Sherry, you realize that sunrise happens in the morning". (Laughter) But her response was even better. She said, "Grandad, I can get up early if I want to." So we did. Actually we ended up going to Eldorado Park, I think three times that day. We went early in the morning for sunrise, and then my friend and her grandchildren came over and we were telling her about this. Well, let's go. So we went over. I think we went twice that day and once the day before. Is it 12 - 15 miles from here?

53:55 David Allison

Not far,

53:59 Paul

Not far at all. And I buy the park pass and the annual memberships to a lot of the places around here, because then, being the tightwad that I am, If I've just been there just one time, I get my money's worth. Yeah, but if I'm a member, I can go for an hour or two hours and that's enough. Just bop in and bop out. So we did that. And then, about 10 years ago, she got married and we stayed in contact; Then this summer, her husband came out for two weeks in June and July. We had a good time and went places. I didn't know that she had been looking into becoming a flight attendant for United Airlines. And she wanted United because they have a hub here and she wants to move to Colorado. Well I think, November 6th she went to Houston for seven weeks for the training and she graduated December 21. And Denver is her home base, and so she's living with me until she can find a place. And she's now a full fledged flight attendant.

55:20 David Allison

Oh nice. That's wonderful.

55:22 Paul

That's not why that's not why I moved here. But that part, the pluses that followed up with that. You know,, I'm in a comfortable place in my life and Broomfield is a comfortable place today.

55:35 David Allison

Wonderful. Well, Paul, I really appreciate your time today and it's been a pleasure.

55:39 Paul

I love an audience. (Laughter)

55:42 David Allison

Yeah, I appreciate that. And I am going to ask, could I take a picture of this?

55:45 Paul

Absolutely. No, actually not a picture of that.

55:42 David Allison

I won't, okay.

55:54 Paul

No, only because I have a nice model of it, which would be better for three dimensions.