

Wednesday
August 19, 1987

Well, I'd like to welcome you all. Probably my name tag is the most necessary one here. I'm Marcie Tellender and yesterday evening we had a wonderful gab fest, a get down gab fest. Thelma was here, maybe some of our friends from last night are going to come and join us again tonight. But this project was created for Broomfield for Broomfield Days and Debbie has really been masterminding this with help from Karen. The Historical Society, the Arts Council and various other groups have really been helpful. What our dream is right now is to develop a video tape with personal stories from Broomfieldians, I still haven't learned how I'm supposed to call you so I'm just saying Broomfieldians for now. The idea is that there are many people in Broomfield who don't know about its history and the most important history of any community is based on the personal lives of the people who lived there. Not in the history books, but in the word of mouth stories of those people who have actually experienced the community and my job is to be kind of like a blank book or a blank slate and ask you questions, you'll think a lot of them are dumb or stupid, but these are questions that can help new people here, people who haven't really had the richness of your experience understand what it was like in the past in Broomfield, what it looks like right now, what the heritage is, what the culture is, that is, who are the people who made this place and what is the movement of Broomfield right now. A lot is happening and a lot has happened in the last 30 years so this evening is about your personal stories and nothing you have to say is unimportant and I have to say this often to people because in our country unfortunately we have stopped really conversing one to one or in groups, have you noticed. It is very rare that we get the honor of being listened to. And just today Debbie and I were out interviewing Joe Huddard and Miles Crawford and we were thinking of the incredible riches, the lives of that generation, in other words we are talking about people now who in the history of human civilization have seen more changes than any other time in history. Think about that, think about what you have seen and experienced. If we lose your stories, we lose our heritage, it is as simple as that. So I'm kind of a radical about oral histories. I am interested and I think that this community has a very strong hometown feeling that needs to be made available to people who are just coming here or are just learning about Broomfield as a home town. People make the hometown, not institutions, but people. So here we are, just a bunch of folks. Yesterday evening was it you Bill that heard that Ken Hoyle told us a bunch of horse stories and Bill just well you put Ken on a horse and you can't pry him off with a crow bar. In talking about horses, he'll tell you about horses he's traded, horses he's ridden or horses that he got stuck in the mud with. Now of course horse stories, animal stories. Last night we heard about the greased pig contest and throwing the turkeys off the shopping center roof and about how the Humane Society heard about this and then Bob Cognizak said well you know I got called up by the Humane Society, you know when I have to separate the calves from their mothers and I have to move them over into that pasture by Main Street, well they bawl and they bawl. Somebody called up and said that Bob Cognizak isn't feeding his calves, I know it and they reported him. He said I could have pumped them full of food and they still would have bawled. So that got us going on what a lot of people would consider unimportant, but that's not true, that is the fabric of life and each of us has a thread to it and that is what we want to capture. The richness, the texture of that life because that is after all what we call culture. It is not paintings, it is not opera. Culture is people and the fabric of their lives. I'd like to show you tonight a dub of a tape that I just recently did in

Crested Butte where I come from. And Crested Butte has a lot of similarities to Broomfield. It has mining background, a ranching background, there has been a lot of movement in and out there is a big possibility that Crested Butte is going to boom yet again. A lot is going on right now and we are in a place where, yesterday evening, Frank Gray was talking about the grocery store, the Grocery Boys store and about when the new Safeway came in and people had to make a decision, are we going to go, continue going to Grocery Boys or are we going to go over to Safeway, what are we going to do here. And I know what that feels like, I know what that's like and that is when you are talking about a community, you really think of individuals and what they put into the businesses and what the connecting tissue between people. So I did a video tape of an Australian man interestingly enough who came over to the United States and fell in love with Crested Butte. And it is an interview with two of our old timers. One of them is John Hahn who has been single handedly mining the Forest Queen Silver Mine in the old style for a long time. He is a man up in his 70's. And then we interviewed Annie Perko and she is a very strong willed woman. She lives alone and she was the wife of a miner, the daughter of a miner and we wanted to hear these peoples voices. We wanted those people who were coming into Crested Butte and those people who had never seen it to hear, to hear from the true voices, the people who have short stories from long lives. So we'll watch a portion of this and I can't really vouch for the quality because it has been dubbed many times and as some of you may know that is a little hard on a tape, but you'll see old photographs and new photographs and some of the ideas we have for gathering your stories and putting them into video tape form may include this style of video tape recording. Remember that I do not know about Broomfield, let's say that I am learning a lot, but there are places and things and times that you all just know in general, but not everybody does so it is very important if you pretty well place or a year or a time to be specific. Technology is very important in this because we want to save every single word you say so let's just move in there. I'd like to begin today, Joe Huddard reminded me and so did Miles of how important rituals are in our lives and we often think of rituals only as things like marriages and baptisms and that sort of thing. But yesterday Thelma told us about a ritual that really made people think and it was about what you did when the trains came. Would you tell us that again? This is truly a ritual, this is what makes life I think rich and this is a wonderful example of that.

Well there was a steam engine that used to come through town. I think the Greenewalds, and in the summer with all the windows open and stuff you could hear it way off coming up the track from the south and we'd grab the kids and run out and get in the car and tear up to where the rental used to be, Hogsons Grocery Store and you could see the steam engine going across there at that intersection and we'd jump in the car and race over to Atlas Park and there's several places, one better than the rest, you could stand up on the bluff where the irrigation water comes across over the train track, stand up there and watch the train. It was going up to Cheyenne ultimately, but it did go to Louisville and I'm not sure if it went to Boulder. But one of the other people last night mentioned how it caught the wheat stubbles on fire and after that experience it didn't come as often so you had to listen more carefully.

It went to Billings? Well I love that, I also love something that Joe told me about today he said you know in the 20's when I got here I used to walk up there, up on the hill and I'd look out all over those fields and that water

*Thelma
Banschbach*

down below and you know I could see those roads crossing those fields and I could see those houses out there and I would stand up there and I would watch and I'd wait until in my imagination I could see, I could see Broomfield growing. Now there is a ritual right there. A ritual simply means something that you do that is not in the usual way of life, but something that really makes life, let's say precious, maybe even sacred. If we could even use that word. So I would like you to think now about those kinds of rituals. Marie was talking about one. She has written down in small notebooks everything that she has canned. She knows how many peaches and how many choke cherries and how many tomatoes. That is a ritual in itself, documenting.

How much I paid for it, how many quarts I got out of it and how many glasses of jelly.

What was your best year.

I don't know, I quit doing it in 1958 and I started in 1943.

In 1943, why did you do that?

Just to have something to do.

That's right home canning is a ritual, do you remember the smells, do you remember the mess?

Do you remember the Alberta peaches from Palisade?

What a treat, all of those peaches were a treat. Did you get peaches from Paonia and over there?

No, Palisade.

I didn't hear nearly enough yesterday from the women and I'm interested, how many of you grew up in families where you were canning, you yourselves were canning? What is that ritual, when does it begin, when do you start thinking about canning?

I think you begin when your mother puts you to work.

When did you get put to work Harry, canning?

Well, we had to scald them and sterilize the jars, we had to can, butter, make the syrup put them on the rack and steam them.

Carol what is your favorite thing to can?

Pickles.

You have a special recipe, what kind of pickles?

No, I don't can, but my mother made lots of pickles. Or she'd can the vegetables for us to use in the wintertime.

Where did the vegetables come from?

Marie
Billington

Harry
Billington

She'd go to market and get them, usually like a farmers market and so you'd snap the beans and shell the peas and just help her with the canning process.

How about other folks, canning rituals, the ritual of canning. I just remember the smells. I thought I would never eat another cherry again. Well after awhile if you are in that kitchen working on them you can't imagine that you will ever want them and boy in February. The Alberta pears and apricots. What was your favorite Harry?

Peaches.

Not me, my mother used to give me cod liver oil in the peaches.

Would she sneak it in the peaches Marie? What about that, what about the remedies for getting rid of colds. Do you remember any of the remedies?

Well you wore a sock for about a week and tied it around your throat. Mustard politics.

What else?

Lemon and soda water and baking soda and water with some lemon juice in it.

Would you gargle with that then?

No you would drink it, very gaseous.

What else, other remedies for women's problems? Like red clover.

Get rid of the men.

New babies, how many of you were born at home, by midwives. Murray, was a midwife one that delivered you?

No, we lived next door to the doctor. We got a snow job, his name was Dr. Snow.

Where was that?

Kansas City.

How about you Vic?

I had a doctor in attendance.

Who else was born at home.

We lived ten miles out of town and the doctor had to come out there. There were four of us in our family and we was all born out at the farm, ten miles out of town.

Did he have to come in the snow for you?

In October, he could have.

Billingtons

Murray
Brown

Vic
Borcard

Are there any superstitions around here? For instance in Crested Butte there is a character, a woman, who was really an early ranch woman who had a lot of independence, but a lot of her husbands died strangely enough and she had this bronze cauldron that she would take out and say some magic slavinian words over and sure enough the next day so the story goes a new slavik kid would come into town and boy he would be married to her. She amassed all this land. Well, out where I live there is a warm springs that comes out of a grotta in the ground and they say that you have to cross your fingers when you pass Anka Palanks spring or when it is a full moon if you listen closely you can hear her chanting. Are there any stories like that around here? Any stories that the kids tell at Halloween or scary places that the kids like to talk about?

*Lanew
Mo Shime*

There's a ghost story about the depot. Back when we moved the Depot in 1975 it was sitting over there without a furnace, without electricity without anything on the site and we had a man who was wiring for electricity and he would come over there at night and work after his day time job and he in a very embarrassed way told us one time that he was up there about 11 o'clock at night in the attics and he would put his tool box somewhere and he would go back to get it and it would be gone. It happened to him several times he told us. And so as the years went by before we had the electrical finished, I was working upstairs on some cataloging, during the day time and I would be sitting there and there were men working on various things on the building and I would be sitting there with my head down working at this table and all of a sudden I would think oh there is somebody at the door and I would look up and there was nobody there. It happened to me many, many times and I thought I'm really getting suggestable you know you tell me these ghost stories and then I'm thinking there is somebody here. That is our Depot Ghost Story. That went around town and the kids were dying to get in there and see if they could catch the ghost.

Every community has to have a ghost because that means it has a past and the ghost stories and the old superstitions are merely ways of connecting with the past. So maybe you will think of some this evening. I'd like to ask do any of you remember or remember hearing about the bank robbery of 1929. Do you remember hearing about this? What did you hear about this, were you here then Katherine? When did you come?

*Kate
Greenmeyer
Musher*

I came in 1925.

Around the time when Joe Huddard came and Glen Moser. Glen told us a story about being at the bank at the time when this hold up occurred. Will you tell that story tonight?

*Glen
Musher*

We had lumber stacked up high and the pigeons would come in there and roost on it and you know what they would do to it. It was hard to clean and one thing and another so I decided to get rid of them by shooting one of them once and awhile. Two of them got over there on the bank on the high wall on the west side that is the lumberyard office now. It used to be the bank. I was standing down there at the bottom and I shot two pigeons and they fell off and I picked them up in my hand and had my 22 rifle in the other hand and a guy come out of the front door and looked at me and had a gun in his hand and I thought well what is going on here. And so I thought well something is wrong and he took off and went back in the bank and I went to get rid of those pigeons in the back yard in a hurry you know and then it wasn't but a short

while later that we heard somebody come around and say the bank was robbed and they couldn't get the vault unlocked and this and that and so they got me and I went back in and the guy that owned the bank then, I forget his name, anyway I went over there and nobody could remember the numbers to undo the vault and everybody was locked up in the vault. I got it open and by golly I looked in there and here was Miles Crawford with his hands still up in the air.

*Glenn
Masher*
You know we asked Miles about that today if it was true. Was it true that he was cashing a \$2.00 check and was it true that his hands were still up and he said yes he was cashing a check for a very small amount and he said they had to tell me to put my hands down I was that scared. So that is a true story and I really appreciate that, Mose. What I love is the fact that you have this gun in your hand and the bank robber peeks out sees you with the gun and goes back in side.

I still had the pigeons. If I hadn't had them, I might have gotten shot.

That's right, that's right. How did, I'm real interested in courtship and how you met each other. It doesn't matter if you met here in Broomfield or not, but today Joe was saying, he was talking about his wife Lillian and he was saying I met her over in Brush, I was playing the violin and he said I had a band and I saw her out there and she had the blondest hair and the bluest eyes, she was the most beautiful blond haired, blue eyed woman I ever saw, anybody ever saw. He said I had to fight all the other men because they were trying to court her too. But he did somehow, he stepped off that bandstand and he made it a point to meet her. And when I said well now when did you pop the question now Joe. He said I don't remember and I said well maybe you didn't have to and he said no, she had her mind set on it. Then Miles told us about courting on horseback, riding up in the hills with his wife Emily and taking buggy rides and going to dances, but he said the only way you could really court around here was on horseback and so that is about how they did it or you could also be in the drill team and apparently he and Emily met that way. She was a school teacher and they met when he was part of the drill team. What a special way to meet someone and then be able to court her on horseback or to step off a bandstand and pick out the woman that you are going to spend most of your life with. That is pretty wonderful. The grange hall dances at the Crescent Grange where the men would read the music and play and you would dance slow, you would dance fast and then at the end, what would the last song be Marie, do you know, before everybody went home.

Good Night Sweetheart or Home Sweet Home.

Yes, one of those two and then depending on what time of your life or what time of history you would either get into the buggies or get into the cars and all over this country that is how people had their Saturday nights or their Monday nights depending on where you were. What do you remember, what was your recreation time like? What did you do for recreation?

Just what you said.

*Kate
Masher*
What else, what else did you do? First of all, let me ask you this, where did you dance with Glen?

At the Grange Hall.

Are you a good dancer?

I was, I won first prize in the Charleston.

Did you wear, roll your stockings and short dresses?

Yes.

Did you bind yourselves?

No.

Did you get bobbed hairdos?

Yes. I got a licking for getting my haircut.

Because you cut your long hair.

Kate Mosher
I used to have long black curls. My two older sisters got theirs cut and well, my brother decided to cut mine, so we went upstairs. We lived right on the corner of the golf course, you know that old house there. Well, anyway, he was upstairs cutting my hair and one of the kids hollered down through the register and said George is cutting Katie's hair and up she come with a paddle. I got a swat and dad was right behind her. She wouldn't speak to me for about three weeks.

Why was it considered so awful to get it bobbed?

She liked my long, black, curly hair.

That is really the first time in history that women had cut their hair.

She never said a word about my other two sisters, they cut theirs first.

Were you the oldest or the youngest?

The youngest.

How old were you?

I was about 15.

Marie do you remember bobbing hair?

Marie Billington
Yes.

Did you have yours bobbed?

I never had very much to cut. My mother used to when it was long wrap it around her finger with a hairbrush, I wore curls and there was a little curl in my hair, but she'd pull at it and then I'd scream and she'd give me a crack with the brush. She was always going to maulfooster me, now that's a good Gaelic word. But she never caught up with me.

Well, so there were flappers in Broomfield. Were their sheiks? The guys, did the guys oil their hair, pomenade their hair?

Oh yes, definitely.

Do any of you remember that?

Pompadour was in style back then, straight back. I started parting mine after the flu epidemic in 1919.

You started parting your hair after the flu epidemic, how come?

I lost a lot.

Where was that, when?

1918, 1919.

All around the country.

Everything was shut down. Lafayette and Louisville schools and churches were turned into hospitals.

Were you here then, in Broomfield?

No, I didn't come to Broomfield until 1928.

Was anybody here then during the flu epidemic here in Broomfield?

It was that way all over the country.

Yes it was that way all over the country, a lot of children died too. How long did it take until that really stopped?

Well, they closed the school down and the schools and everything down around in November, 1918 and it broke out again in April, 1919. Mother had three boys down at the same time.

Three boys down, really scary. What did they give you for it?

Seems to me a vaccine, drink a lot of water, about the same that they do now.

Jello.

And Jello and no antibiotics.

Well, they didn't know what they were then.

That's right. Antibiotics saved my life in 1947. I think that is the first time they ever used them. We were talking today about the war here and Glen went to war from Broomfield. Did anybody else, the second World War, did anybody else go from Broomfield? Well, he said something amazing, as far as he could remember, all the boys that left Broomfield during the second World War returned and I don't know of a single community.

I came from the community in Minnesota where more men were killed per capita than anyplace else in the country.

Yeah, it was heartbreaking because every community was scarred, no matter how small and Glen was really thinking about it along with Joe and they just couldn't think of anyone who didn't come back. There were about eight men that went right?

I don't remember.

Six or eight got on the train, well there were some more from around Denver and all over that got on that train that went to Wyoming.

To boot camp?

Yes to a little town up there.

How about the Vietnam War? Do any of you have sons that went to Vietnam?

Sure I do.

And he came back? How did Broomfield feel about the Vietnam War? What was the general attitude? It was a very difficult war for this country. How did you feel?

Well, I didn't like, I don't like any war, I'm very much against any war. My husband was in World War II and my father was in World War I so when Vietnam came I wasn't ready for war anymore, but our son chose to go so I couldn't stop him, but I don't know that I had any feelings directly about the war except I don't like war.

What's his name?

Alan Bailey.

He came out of it in pretty poor shape, mentally and physically.

It was a hard one.

Yes it was one of our difficult ones because well one of things it took him a long time to decide that it really was a war, World War I and II were so definite and Vietnam was not called war, it was an action or something. And that was the same thing with Korea. I don't think anybody in Broomfield did anything different than anybody else. It's a fairly conservative town, and I don't think, when the boys went it was in the paper and they were happy when they came back. There was no great emotional feeling for or against it as far as I can remember.

Anybody else? I mean if you think about it we have all come up with many wars. Think about all the wars we have lived through in this century and to not refer to them is not to refer to, I think, a very important part of life. But what is most important is what we did back home. I mean what was going on against this huge backdrop of war? How was life continuing? What happened, you were here Katie in Broomfield when the men were gone at war and the

Baileys, you were here during the second World War, right. What happened in Broomfield?

Daily life went on just the same.

Did you hear the war reports, did you do anything for the war effort? Collecting cans?

We sold bonds.

In World War there was rationing everybody took part in that.

You could buy 4 gallons of gas a week.

How about the depression?

I ate second hand beans.

What is a second hand bean?

Well, Grandpa Jones had the grocery store and he'd get some commodities in and some beans, dry beans and some of them had rocks in them, you had take them over and that's what we had to eat. If it hadn't been for them, we'd have starved.

How did you make it, what did you do, what kind of dishes did you make?

Oh, got some chicken, mostly beans and cornbread.

Anybody else in the depression.

Did you get in on the rabbit drives.

What about the rabbit drives?

People used to go out and circle and a field and beat the bushes in and chase the rabbits in and when they get in the middle they'd club them to death, skin them up and haul them into Denver and give them to the poor people. The Denver Post gave them away down there in stake bed trucks.

Wow. Cause I know in Crested Butte they ate a lot of jack rabbit stew. But I don't know if they had drives like that. Did folks around here eat a lot of rabbit?

Yeah, we would stop out there west of the airport up in the flats.

How about hunting?

We used to knock off pheasants if we could get away with it.

If you could get away with it, you would knock off pheasants. And mule deer?

I never shot anything. I shot at one and he waved his tail at me.

How many of you fish? I understand there was some really good fishing in the lakes and streams.

Should still be good, I never caught any.

What was the best fishing lake around here? Was it over on Zang's property?

We used to have our property lake over there.

On the home place?

Well that was when we lived there. Upper Churches Lake. And then he had a private lake and he'd always give us a pass to that.

This is Zang now?

No, Church. We lived on Zangs.

And that's what you called the home place. So were you renting property from Adolph?

No, my dad was farming for him.

Beets?

Late Marker
No, not then, we raised beets in Fort Morgan just before we come up here. And he kept coming down there in a big old black car, course we didn't know him, my dad know'd him and about every Sunday he'd come down there and us kids would say well there comes that big old black car again and before too long we found we going to move. We had to have sale. My dad owned 32 horses at the time. We brought 6 horses up here and sold the rest of them. It took us two days to sell them. We came up here in box cars from Fort Morgan and the people used to say that lived around here oh here comes the family with 16 kids. There were 11 of us and of course a couple of cousins helped, but we did move with a box car on the train.

With all of your stuff in the box cars?

Everything, furniture and the cattle, and horses.

Wow and you guys were all inside these box cars also?

No, we drove the cars. It took us three days to get up here.

How about Philip Zang and his horses. Does anybody remember Philip's horse sales, the horse shows? We heard about those down in Crested Butte and that is one of the things folks wanted me to ask you.

Late Marker
We still had them when we were on the home place.

What happened at these horse shows?

I don't remember. I remember the horses.

Do you remember the Percharons?

Yes, the big ones. We lived in that little house and the guy that ran the farm lived in the big house. When Zang got rid of the horses, we moved into the big house and we lived there until we moved over west.

I would like to ask you about the big train wreck of 1958. Now we've heard a number of different versions, it was a pretty dramatic event here and it happened in your backyard practically didn't it Katie? What was that like?

It was scary.

What did it sound like?

Kate Mosher
It was about 6 in the morning and I was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee and still in my pajamas and I heard these two trains coming rather slow you know, the passenger was going faster and I heard a great big, like a bomb you know and I looked out and I seen them two trains come together and they just went up like that.

I was sitting at the crossing there waiting to get across.

I run out in back and I seen a man hanging there and I ran back in and I wouldn't get up the rest of the day. I just stayed in the house.

Were those diesel locomotives or steam engines?

They were steam engines.

No, those were diesel. They were diesel because they had those big batteries in them. This one engine was on top of the other one and the other one was sitting underneath and the fuel tank on the one up above was busted and all that diesel was running out on them batteries and that scared the heck out of us we figured we'd have one heck of a fire and I was in the car there and I backed up real quick and went over and seen what was doing and I seen somebody better than me around there and I belonged to the volunteer fire department then so I quick run up to the lumber yard and I opened it up and called another one of the boys to come down with the fire truck and sit there. And he stayed there until the trains were clear, no more gas was leaking. I went back up and never got no breakfast. I went back to the lumberyard and stayed all down. You couldn't drive up and down the street.

What was the name of the man that tried to convert one of the engineers that was dying. He told him he'd better make his peace with the Lord. He was quite a religious man.

Someone came to the train?

He was down somewhere around the old mill there.

Was that Harrison?

No. He lived above the tracks. He tried to convert the one engineer that was dying, he told him to make his peace with the Lord. I was working at the post

office and Mr. Torgeson was the assistant postmaster and Mr. Crawford was the postmaster at that time and Mr. Torgeson went over to get the mail to see if it was safe off of the train that was coming from Wyoming. They came down from Cheyenne, I don't know how far up. I guess they went to Casper didn't they and came back down.

That was one of the interesting things about that. In spite of all the tragedy, they got to the mail almost instantly. The mail trucks have privilege over almost anyone else.

They came and took the mail off the train?

Right away. Dr. Brisnehan helped, but some of those people in position on the hill and they went up and helped. Were there five killed in that wreck?

We heard three and we haven't checked yet with the newspapers.

I can check my slides if you haven't gotten slides of that wreck.

I think it was five.

But some of them were still alive and they lowered him down into the train.

Are you Dr. Novak?

Yes.

I would like to ask you about the artifacts that you discovered. That's not correct.

That was another dentist.

You can see from the air the teepee rings.

Can you still see them?

I don't know, I've never spotted them myself.

It is supposed to be right on that ridge west of the water tower.

Joe Huddart was saying that you could walk along and find five or six of them at a time. Arrowheads and Dr. Killebrew found a stone axe and has apparently identified some of the arrowheads. Do you know any of the stories about the native americans who were here? Is this the only evidence that we are just talking about now. The first people, the native americans. The Arapahoe, no stories remain? Nobody with native american backgrounds?

There is a place down on Wadsworth, Hackberry Hill is what it is called now, that was supposed to be, because they could see the whole valley and I've wondered if maybe because they were there they didn't come up to Broomfield. We missed out.

Or it has just passed like a lot of other things.

Dr. Novak

Does anyone know what tribes were in this area?

The Cheyenne and the Arapahoe for sure and probably a lot of movement between Shoshone and maybe the Sioux. There is a lot of movement through here and up and down the Platte, up around Colorado Springs and Ute Pass. This was probably a very good grazing place for game.

There are supposed to be coal mines up there too under that ridge.

What about the mining days? Now I understand there was mostly hard coal, medium hard coal was mined around here and there was the Marshall Mine and a couple of others.

The Highway Mine.

We're talking about mines. That was all through Boulder Valley from Frederick to Marshall.

Right west of the water tower there is certain ground you cannot build on because of subsidence area.

I understand from Mose and Joe that some people farmed by day and mined by night or mined by day and ranched or farmed by night which is not unusual. That is what a lot of ranchers in Colorado have had to do in order to keep their ranches going. Do you know any families where that kind of double shift was going on?

Mostly operate the farms and coal mine through the winter.

The Bailey Boys, one of them was killed in the Monarch Mine when it blew up.

It was caused from they had an electric car that went in and brought the coal out and they would drive those cars way back in and coming out the sparks flew and they got gas somewhere and it blew up. Ray Bailey was the one I knew real well, he'd been after me for months to come up and take me down in the mine and show me what it was like down there. He and my brother worked down there. He took me up there one night and after work I went up and we went up in there and the sparks started flying off of that rail with those iron wheels and it scared me. I think it was two nights after that that it blew up and he got killed. And then I couldn't even sleep.

Dad used to drive the mules down there too.

Mountain canaries they called those.

Fate Marker
They never did find Little Joe. They found most of the other guys. I know Ray Bailey, I worked at the restaurant and he worked the night shift. He farmed during the day and worked the night shift. Every morning he would stop in at 7:00 o'clock or a little after when he got off and he would have to have his piece of cherry pie and a shot. That was every morning.

He would drink the shot first and then eat the cherry pie.

Was that Jones store?

No, there was another little one up above that. I used to live in that little antique store.

What was the restaurant called that you are talking about now. Do you remember?

It was Bleekers.

Remember Mickey Monof?

Oh yeah, I worked for them. I started with them for \$5.00/week, 7 days a week, 10 hours/day.

And what kind of tips were you getting?

Katie Mosher
I was lucky to get a nickel or ten cents a day. I kid Joe now you know he tips and then he'll say to me, Katie, what did you make in tips. Oh I'd be lucky if I made a dime a day and that's what he used to tip. Now he tips pretty good.

I would like to ask you about being brats. The day we were talking to Miles we were talking about being bad and getting caught for it and he said well yeah, I remember that one room school house and I was up learning a lesson and he said now I wasn't the only kid to do this but I couldn't help but getting caught because I was inside. I peed on the walls. And apparently he was being stood up in the front of the class and everyone else had left because he hadn't learned his lesson and so apparently that was the way a lot of the boys, I guess not the girls, but a lot of the boys showed how irritated they were their courses. And he said I couldn't help but get caught. Well, what, when were you a brat and got caught for it or better still, maybe you never did get caught for it. You know a lot of brats. Yesterday Mary told us about the kindergarten delinquent who strolled into school and won all of the boys over and when he felt like coming to school he would come to school and if he didn't feel like it he wouldn't come and then when he felt like leaving he would go out and look at the bikes on the rack and he'd take this one and ride it home. That's a brat. But he was the one that always said to her.

He wasn't the same one. No he wasn't that kind of a brat. He was just, he didn't think he could do a lot of things and he didn't want to follow the rules. The other one was. But this one never followed the rules period.

But every night he would say, Mrs. Miller I love you. That can turn any teacher's heart. OK, come on, when were you a brat, when did you get in trouble?

When I didn't spell Mississippi right and had to write it 200 times on the blackboard.

How do you spell Mississippi Harry?

M I S S I S S I P P I.

You learned a lesson didn't you. Isn't it great to know there isn't a brat in the bunch?

I was once. Oh I had to write about 100 times note writing has no place in school because we liked to pass notes around. I'm sitting here also thinking when we were in high school, if you got called into the principal's office, you were in big trouble. Kids, it doesn't seem to bother them nowadays, but that was really bad when you got called into the principal's office.

Well, we respected the principal.

Right, I think we respected our teachers.

They don't now, they have no respect for God Almighty.

We went up to the high school to register 18 year olds to vote and we got spit balls thrown at us. We finally had to go get somebody in authority to tell the kids to quit you know, that's disrespect.

When was this Lucy?

Oh, two years ago.

I think I was a brat once.

Tell us about it.

I went to school in Nebraska you know and I didn't pass the 8th grade so the next year two or three guys that I knew real well, my buddies in the 8th grade school said well hell we didn't pass either and we went on up and went to the 9th grade and nobody ever said a single thing. They talked me into it, I went onto the 9th and went right on through.

I remember one time, my cousin and I were 10 days and we practically ran the school in Butte, Montana and the teacher told Annie Aman to conduct a music class, she had to go to a meeting or something, well Lois and I weren't about to have Annie do one, good heavens who was she, so we conducted the music class and Miss Helen came back and she was so mad she through her pitch pipe and it hit me right in the head. Oh yeah, it cut it, but it was my own fault.

Was it beautiful music or were people playing wildly or?

It was just singing. We weren't about to let somebody else do it. We graduated and they were happy.

To kind of follow Glen's deal there, I was also grew up in and went to school in Nebraska and I had lived on a farm all my life, and I flunked agriculture. But the reason for that was we found out later and it got straightened out, I was evidently a brat and I had done some things in school that the teacher didn't like and I guess she said I'll fix you and so I had to take part of that over which until we proved that she was wrong, I had to do a little more studying of agriculture and living on a farm, I didn't like that.

I had a little episode and I really did not get into trouble, however, in geometry class, the principal had to take over as teacher because the teacher left and he had ulcers I'm sure. Geometry was very easy for me and he came in the room late one time, wrote a problem on the board and told us to do it and

Lucy Brown

I turned to the boy who sat next to me and said that's impossible and I thought he was trying to catch us and he was in back of the room and he said all right Gail, do your own work. Well he could have scolded me for talking, he could have and I would have taken, but he accused me of cheating and then it turned out that he, oh I said well it is impossible and it turned out he had copied it out of the book wrong. I got more and more angry and I did not say a word the rest of the class and I went home at noon and said I am not returning to Mr. Payne's geometry class and I met him after I had gotten my Masters in Piano Performance again and he said to me, why did you go into music, I always thought you would major in math. However, I went home and said I will study, I will take the state board, but I will not return to that class and my father was President of the School Board and I said now don't say anything, this is just what is going to happen and I went upstairs and my father called Mr. Payne and said what was wrong this morning and Mr. Payne said Gail will be just fine if she really works hard. And my father came upstairs and said you may do whatever you want. Well, fortunately it was a Friday night and we went to a basketball game and Mr. Payne was taking tickets and I had to walk past him and I was still angry, but I did have two days to think about the trouble I would cause if I did that, so I did go back to class and we got along just fine.

An independent woman, how old were you then?

I can't remember, I was in high school.

School is a great place for as they call it now acting out. Remember all of the acting out or church, remember any church events? I used to sit in the loft, the choir loft and count horseshoes, that is bald heads and I would sit through the whole, I was raised as a Catholic and I would sit through the whole mass and we didn't do a lot of singing, I don't know if in the Catholic church here, any of you come to the first Catholic church that was here? Where was that? We didn't do a whole lot of singing so there wasn't a whole lot to do. But what was it like going to church for you? Did you have to go? Anybody have any ministers or preachers for fathers, was church going important? Where did you all go to church?

I went to the Methodist up here.

When was that built?

I don't know. 1905.

In 1905, the Methodist Church was built.

Not the one we're in now.

No, but it was one of the first things built here wasn't it?

Yes.

Well, what was it like going to the Methodist Church?

I didn't go until we moved up here.

Were there church socials?

Oh yes.

Tell us about those.

I don't remember much about those. Box socials you know. You'd fix up a box and the guys would buy the box and you'd sit and eat with him.

The guy would buy the box and you'd sit and eat with him.

Oh yeah, you had to, whether you liked him or not.

They had different things, pot lucks and stuff like that. Mrs. Huddart was very much involved. She sang in the choir.

Was there any kind of barber shop, I know there's the Merry Mixers, there's square dancing and that's been around for awhile, correct.

There's the swing choir. They put on wonderful shows, musical shows.

That was in the early 60's.

You had a barbershop quartet?

I thought you were talking about barbers.

Well barbers know a whole lot about what is going on in town don't they. Who was the first barber you remember?

I remember going to the barber shop to get my hair cut it was a combination of living quarters, pool hall and barber shop.

That was down there below me.

Below you meaning the lumberyard?

East, that first house. And then Coleson bought and moved in there and years and years afterwards and the last barber that was there moved to South Dakota.

How about, were you thinking of something?

Something different, Carol Conover was started in the basement of Empire Savings. It was a meat shop that Jim VanBuskirk and Harold Conover and Alan Neeber had a drug store down there and anyway, Harold was, his wife is still living here.

Did you start the grocery store before the church went in there or after Bill?

The grocery store was before the church. The shopping center was built then and everybody moved into that except Jim who didn't continue.

I would like to know what you think about the changes that have been going on and are going on in Broomfield right now. What are your feelings, those of

you have been here for awhile, those of you who have been here less time, but still for awhile. How do you feel about Broomfield now compared to Broomfield when you first moved here?

Pretty exciting still.

Pretty exciting, why is that?

Still growing, it's dynamic.

Tell your story, Bill, about the robber who came to Broomfield.

Bill Greenwald
Came to the store early in the morning, fire engines and trucks and police and everybody around the front of the place. Drove around the back and went in the normal way, there was no smoke in the windows and I'm used to seeing smoke in the windows from the previous fire. Went in the back door and everybody is looking up at the ceiling, about 16 feet there is a guy hanging down head and shoulders and two legs sticking down through a hole in the ceiling.

He broke through the ceiling to get in?

Yeah, he claimed he'd been forced to do it at gun point. It was a roof vent he had broken through and wedged himself in there and it took us about an hour to get him out. He had been there for 8 hours, folded double, just almost dead. If you can imagine just stick both your feet down, one arm and a shoulder and your head through a 14 inch hole.

What is the name of your store?

Broomfield Hardware.

Bill Greenwald
Tell about the other burglar, the one that you tackled.

Oh, there was a couple of those. They were just shoplifters, chased down the street and caught them.

The deer.

I had a deer walk in the store one time.

When did a deer walk into your store?

This would have been right about 1962 or 1963. Bruce Brown was there, the only one that really saw it, the two of us were standing behind the counter, over toward the cash register and looked around and somebody in the back of the store says there is a deer in the store. Little old white tail deer was standing there. Spun around and ran out of the store and left a little smear of blood on the floor as he went out. He crossed behind where the drug store is now and across the road. It was a couple of days before hunting season, we assumed he was coming in to check on the rules.

Maybe get himself a crowbar or something to protect himself with.

He walked out, four girls had walked past here while he was I guess in the store and he went out behind them and they hadn't even seen him come in.

How about other animal stories? There seem to be a lot of Broomfield animal stories.

We lived in the second filing, when we first moved here there was pasture land, we were the third house in the second filing and there was pasture land up on 10th above us, and all the time and the cows got out of the pasture all the time, they were always in our yards and so Al, he was in about 8th grade then and he and all the other little boys and there were millions of boys up and down that street and they'd all get together and take sticks and chase the cows back into the pasture, so they were always after the cows.

They lived up there on Midway and it was all grass, he wanted to bring his garter snake to school and his mother tried to persuade him and he looked up at his mother and said she won't mind, she's so kind so we got a garter snake.

I had garter snakes and wolf spiders and salamanders and everything you can think of brought to school.

They gave you a pair of finches one time.

Oh yes, I had those too and I remember one getting out of the cage and I tried to catch it and you know how tall those ceilings are in the kindergarten room.

We had left and we had six finches in a big cage and the two strongest ones, a beautiful pair and killed the other four and I couldn't look at them anymore.

So you gave the kindergartens finches from hell.

Yes, I had a daughter in Mrs. Miller's class.

More animal stories.

We used to live next door to, Dr. Kirkoff used to live next door to us, we still lived there. Anyway he had this big old sheepdog called Bumstead and every time the trash or the milkman or somebody came through, Bumstead got loose and he was a huge, big shaggy dog and I don't even know how he could see through his hair. Anyway, down at the City office one day, Bumstead just walked right in through the office and I said oh I know that dog and so I called Gene and down they came. And another time I was going down 287 and I looked up into the Mount View Shoppette area and there was Bumstead. So I drove up and opened my door and I said Bumstead and whooom, I could hardly drive home. He was a neat dog, but he sure got out a lot.

Well Fred Gray and Thelma told us some interesting things last night and I think this will be familiar to some of you, first filing, second filing, old Broomfield, Broomfield Heights or wherever, they were talking about, Frank was talking about all the grass that would grow up and it would be a breeding area for mosquitos and various other things and so everybody would get by their houses with their hoses and they would all come out with their lighters or matches and they would light this strip of grass and everybody would stand by their houses protecting them, getting ready in case any of the fire should

Thelma Benschbach
spread while other people were sneaking around lighting these little fires and trying to burn the heck of these long strips of grass and then the fire department would come and everybody would kind of act innocent. And Thelma was talking about going brick hunting. Tell us about brick hunting Thelma.

I think Jim could probably relate to this.

Did you go brick hunting Jim?

No, I didn't hunt any bricks. Thelma must have hunted bricks.

I met a lot of people looking for bricks.

Yeah, finding bricks so you could build paths to your house through the mud.

This was early Broomfield when construction was still going on.

Sounds like out and out thievery to me.

She's the one that took them.

We used to have skunks walk by at night. You could tell.

You can still tell.

Lucy & Murry Brown
What else did the community, I mean what kind of things in early Broomfield, when Broomfield had changed from Broomfield Heights when it became incorporated, how many of you came here around those years in the 60's?

Lucy and I were on the election commission when they incorporated the city. You were secretary and I think I was chairman.

I know you were, no I just got elected City Clerk.

We had a kind of a hurry up job on the incorporation. Dick was on it, I believe he was anti incorporation at the time.

Dick was probably right.

We had a few comments like that last night.

There were two very strong factions. I think it only won by about 6 votes.

There were two elections.

When we counted the votes there, our group, there were a lot of people that put things down like, "Hell, no" or they xed out the whole ballot. We assumed those were negative votes. We counted them as such. Then they demanded a recount and any mismarked ballots then were discarded because we were under close scrutiny and anything that wasn't marked according to the rules went out. All the hell no's went out and anything that was not marked with the proper x in the square.

What happened with the recount?

The election still won but by a larger margin.

The first election lost by 3 and then the next one won by 23.

Do you remember when we voted, I remember the first votes in Broomfield were in a box, an old cardboard box. Do you remember how we voted in that one, if it was still a box?

Heck they were threatening us, the election board there they didn't want to stand in line, they didn't want to wait, wouldn't close the line at 7:00 o'clock, the press from Denver was out to see how it came out.

But you don't remember if it was an old cardboard box or not?

No.

We had to go up to Boulder to the county clerk's office and count all the cars in Broomfield so we could get in under the wire and collect the highway funds based on the number of registered vehicles.

Were all the roads paved then?

Oh no.

Ok, this is a very big deal in Crested Butte, we just paved our roads and there were so many people against it that they thought the whole complexion of the community would change and I'm wondering if you went through the same.

I think most of us in the City limits, the roads were paved eventually. We moved in October, 1959 in the second filing and our roads weren't paved then until the next summer. But I think we all went through that period where your streets weren't paved right at first for a long time. Now I think they have to pave the streets first, but I think then up until very recently you would wait. We couldn't water either, so you couldn't put your grass in either. So you had muddy streets and muddy yards and with small kids, it was cute. It's a wonder we didn't have ruined houses.

Yes, you had all these muddy kids and dogs and cats.

That was the third time we had moved into a new district, so we knew what to expect, every time we'd moved, we had moved into a new district in the Denver area so that was the third time we had muddy lawns and muddy streets for 6-8 months.

For the first few years when the ground was being broken up, the winds would come on and throw so much sand my lawn was a foot and one-half under the sand at Christmas time. Had this big street sweeper come push it out.

We heard about some of those wind storms last night.

Busting windows out of the stores, the library.

The bank. Had to be boarded up and somebody had to sit out front with a shotgun.

Whenever the wind would come, they would pull in the trucks from Barber Poultry and sit them in front of the Grocery Boys store to block the wind.

They would bring from the poultry store?

Yep, they were the only semis around.

And put them in front of what?

The windows at the grocery store. Several times we had to close up stores because of the wind.

Norah
I lost a 30' x 10' section of my roof. That was in January and the next day it snowed.

Yes, our neighbors across the street from us to the west lost the siding on one side of the house and we watched it unfold and we were afraid it would come through our front windows.

You could hear it go like an airplane and it took off. It's kind of interesting, all the neighbors looked out the window, no one came to help us, they went down to the fire department, couldn't get through the fire department, no one was at the fire department and so we just turned off our gas, rocks flying--165 mph. And our neighbors next to us, we had 8 kids, and to this day my children are terrified of the wind.

What year was that?

1970 or 1971.

The siding dropped right in our front yard. The whole side of the house.

We've had bad winds like that for a long time.

That's one reason that Safeway has the one door now. Because of the winds, the two doors and one is an emergency door and the other is one way in and usually the whole front of the store you can get in and out of the store, but because of the wind, there's one way into Safeway.

We bricked up the front of the store and changed the entrance.

What's it like living with this kind of wind, I mean you hear, it goes on all the time.

It shakes your house a little bit and then you go back to sleep.

The windows rock and you move the kids out of that room to the back of the house.

You'll notice that filing one and two has a lot of trees.

They had to bring bulldozers in to clear the highway where Lac Amora is.

That's right.

The oldtimers have often said that the Boulder area and this area here the wind has always blown only people have built houses now in the windy areas.

The bridge too. Don't you think the bridge did something coming down.

The interchange.

Some of the oldtimers told them not to face their buildings that way. When they built they didn't pay any attention.

What direction is that?

Northwest.

And they did build it.

There was one night when the dam was failing that was pretty interesting.

When was that Bill?

I don't remember what year that was.

1968 or 1969.

Was this the reservoir?

Yes, the whole center section of the reservoir shifted and the Jaycees and the Kiwanis Clubs, the Lions all sorts of guys were up there. We got water pipe from Thompson Pipe and Steel in Denver and the aluminum irrigation pipe and somewhere Ken Enser picked up a pump, a great big pump, they lowered the pump down into the reservoir area, right down to it and ran the pipe about a mile down to the filter plant. It took all night to do that. One truck was bringing pipe and another was bringing beer.

*Harry
Bellingham* → It was in 1942, Zang was still alive and we built a flume on the north end of the spillway.

After all night we had the water was falling by 2:00 in the morning, I don't think the City missed a drop.

I'm repeating this so we don't miss it, one truck was bringing the pipe and the other was bringing the beer.

Yeah. There were Jaycees there and it's a normal thing of the Jaycees to have beer around.

What would have happened Bill if you hadn't done that? I mean what might have happened?

Well, you wouldn't have had water the next day for sure. I don't know how long it would have taken to rebuild it. It broke the pipelines, sheared them off there so we had to run one over the damn to do it.

Harry what about the flume, would you say that again.

We had to build a flume, couldn't get pipes, so we built a flume about 6' wide in where the spillway was.

That was in the 40's?

1942 I believe.

To stop the water from what?

Washing out the

This is still the reservoir you are talking about?

The Great Western Reservoir.

At one time it was our only water supply.

If the damn had shifted much more and the water broached the top, it probably would have taken out the dam and everyone was concerned it would wash out Broomfield.

When they first started to plan Broomfield, the group, planned community of Broomfield, is that when they built Great Western Reservoir?

They built it in the early 1900's some time.

That was built by Zang. It was built with mule teams and bump wagons.

It was probably improved when Broomfield Heights was started.

What was built it built for here?

Irrigation.

So the beet farming.

Well, it was like this, the water they had out of the Church Ditch and it would go out anywhere from the last of June.

This was in the Church Ditch?

Had Church water in, Zang had water in the Church Ditch and they distributed it around to the farms and there wasn't enough water to raise, irrigation of corn or alfalfa, they started to raising beef they needed water. Then they used to have a pumping station in where Lac Amora is that they irrigated that.

There were three wells in Broomfield. One was up on Church property and I don't remember where the other two were.

First and Main.

So water came from these wells also.

It was usually standby water.

I would like to know what you think other communities around you, Denver, Boulder, etc., what their image is of Broomfield.

A bedroom community.

We're the envy of Boulder I know.

I had one kid from Denver say to me and I can't remember how long ago this was, maybe about 14-15 years ago, kids in Broomfield wear white socks, which was like saying your grandmother wears army boots.

There was one other thing in the 60's in Broomfield, there were a couple of trains that were going. Remember the fire on the railroad tracks, the sparks and it caught the grass on fire. The last run and it caused a tremendous fire.

And was this when the cars continued to drive through the smoke and there were rearends? Was anybody killed in that?

I don't recall.

When did the shopping center burn down, Bill?

Which time?

The first was in 1954, I believe or 1958. Yes that was it. That was an arson fire.

The paint store was on the end of the shopping center and the gentlemen that was the proprietor, we think, had some problems.

There was a pizza joint there and somehow the burners got left on, but the pilot lights were out a couple nights.

So somebody had to move their bakery.

The whole end of the shopping center burned up.

Well, I would like to hear more about what you think other communities think of Broomfield. I think it is important.

It's hard to say not being in other communities.

You don't hear it from folks?

Not really.

All right, what is your image of Broomfield, what would be your brief description of Broomfield? Is it a bedroom community? Is that an important thing to consider?

I don't know that it really matters. It's a good community.

Carol Sherman
It's a good community, it's a very caring community. People really do care about each other, especially when you've lived here the amount time that we all have. I mean something happens and it's just marvelous.

Just to back track, when the roof blew off, there went the wood, canvas, plastic, people that I didn't even know came to help us with that roof. No questions at all, you know it was snowing and 10 degrees above zero.

You wouldn't have believed our store when we had the fire in our place. It was the first day of November and we had a freeze that night and somewhere during the night the pipe going to the air conditioner next door broke and our roof was sagging, it was amazing thing to see.

Everyone had to band together, we didn't have a lot of the community services when we first became a town and all these people started moving into this community. You've heard the fantastic stories of old Broomfield, but when new Broomfield started in it was, all these people from somewhere coming out and we didn't have adequate police and adequate fire and ambulance.

So what happened, what was your fire department?

Carol Sherman
We still had the same volunteer fire department. It was probably inadequate simply because we are built for a rural community and when the first fire hit the shopping center it was, they had one fire engine in town, West Adams County, and during the fire a group of fireman were playing baseball in Longmont or somewhere in Denver, they stopped by, saw the fire and immediately came in to help put it out. A truck came from Thornton, which was really the thing that stopped the fire finally. But it was a very good pumper and another one from, boy I don't know where they all came from. But there were fire trucks from way out and people were all over the place. Jim and I were up on the roof with a garden hose. Cans were squirting out of the top of the building and blowing up and we were knocking them down with a garden hose literally.

No, it was everybody in this new community banded together with the help from the people of the older Broomfield section. And we slowly, but surely became a city.

Was like people like the Billingtons? Were you here Murray and Lucy, were you here before the new Broomfield?

No, we came in 1958.

What was it like for you, folks from old Broomfield? What was it like to have this new movement happening around 1955 and then incorporation in 1961?

Live and let live.

Harry Billington
I didn't object to their building, but I did object to one of their henchmen that came out.

Mr. Duchant.

Mr. Duchant and he said Billington we're going to starve you out and I said you SOB there's the door now get out of here.

He was Bal Swan's henchman. The last time I saw Bal Swan, a good meal would have killed him.

Where did you see him Marie?

Oh, I couldn't tell you, many years ago on the street here.

What did they want you to do? Why was he going to starve you out?

Because we didn't sell out to them.

Because we weren't about to give them the property for the houses they were building.

They wanted your property for development?

Yes.

What property was this?

120th where Burger King is.

And was that farm or ranch or family?

Well, Harry grew flowers. At one time he grew 8 acres of gladiolas out on First Avenue.

Did you sell them?

Yes.

OK, so they wanted that for housing.

They wanted it for something.

Did you end up selling it to them?

Who'd you sell it to?

A man called one day and I said if you have \$750,000 cash it's yours and don't bother me if you don't have that money and I hung up. And I started down in the basement and the phone rang again and he said we have a buyer.

When new Broomfield Heights started, the Billingtons worked in the post office with Mr. Crawford and their work was much heavier because we had no mail delivery and we were general delivery and the Billingtons were our main stay because they provided our mail for us.

Was that Miles Crawford that worked there?

Marie Billington

Yes. And so it is people like this that helped the new community a lot and helped it become a city. People like the Billingtons and Joe Huddart and all of them and then finally a police department was started and the library was started and we began to have our own services that we didn't have.

I'm trying to imagine, Crested Butte, although very different has some similar, there is old Crested Butte, the mining community that went bust and then there is the community that grew up with people my age and started developing businesses and it began to expand, but is not much bigger than it was in the boom days of mining and now something new could happen there. It could be a huge ski resort, in fact it could be a couple of ski resorts, in fact it could be condos up and down the valley and shopping centers and it could be Aspen and I'm trying to understand right now how it must have felt to these different levels of folks to experience the expansion of this community. I mean it took a lot for people to move out here in 1900. It was very unusual for people to come out here in 1950, 1960. There was a back to the land movement.

Yes there was.

But it was very, very small when we came out here.

It was usually you moved to a planned community that was very close to a city and was already built. Schools were built, I remember my family and people that were being raised at the same time I was were moving, they wouldn't move very far, I mean you moved into a very unique situation. Was your view Thelma when you came here that it would be 35,000 people and there would be interchanges.

No, we were hoping it wouldn't be.

That's why we came so far and put up with dirt roads, etc. We wanted the small town atmosphere.

We had those directories and peoples names and addresses and children and ages and where they worked and which church they went to. And then if your kids started playing with somebody, you could get out your directory and find out all about them.

Check on religion and everything else.

I really felt that we knew each other. That's when we had the civic association. We met once a month because we didn't have any police protection and it was a good place for kids from surrounding communities to come drive their trucks over here in your front yard. And they didn't have sod then, people bought gas seed from Joe Huddart, but anyway we knew each other. The night before my son was born we had an election of officers and the men went in the back room and the women that were left in the audience, all of us were pregnant. We all laughed, that's the future graduating class of 1976. But that's how it was.

How many people were here in the 60's, about this time you are talking about?

About 4,000 when we moved here.

When we moved in, we were supposedly the 500th family.

And there were about 100 here in the 30's. What happened right before 1965 when this community began to be envisioned? How many people were here before the first homesites were laid out?

Took in about a 5 mile area, maybe 250-300.

So we are talking from 100-250 to let's say 4,000 to 35,000. This is fascinating.

In 1970 when we come out here, I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting and George Di Ciero gave a speech that night and there were 7,200 people in Broomfield then and he had a plot there showing what was being built and at that time, east of the golf course, they had that all plotted to be built. Lac Amora was plotted to be built, the high school was plotted to be built and they hoped to have that done within 7 years, but it all didn't come because right after that it just slowed up.

When did this large influx of people occur?

We don't have 35,000 in town.

We have 24,000.

Still that is some up from 4,000. When did that occur?

We had 7,000 people here in 1970 and in 1980 we had 21,000. And it is now 26,500.

What do you think was the reason for that?

Thelma explained some of it.

But then we couldn't complain because we moved here because we wanted a small town.

I think we have done a better job with our town. We ask people all the time, everybody asks why did you move here. Well, one thing about Broomfield is people like the outdoors and they are oriented towards children you can just look out in the park. But they want their kids to be away from the municipal problems and we have tried to build the city that way as we grew, to still keep the same concept and we've done a pretty good job.

We moved out because we had a small store in Denver that needed to be re-located and Bill grew up on the edge of Denver where he had the advantages, where he was used to open spaces. We were starting our family and he wanted our children to have the advantage of a small community with open spaces. We also were considering schools and this corner of Boulder County was reputed to have very good Boulder County Schools and that is one reason we moved out here was to take advantage of the school systems.

Were there other communities around that had similar histories?

It was black at night. There were no lights.

You would come up over the hill by the ranch there and there was nothing out here. You could tell your own front porch from there if you'd left the light on.

And you had to be very careful when you ventured out of your house when you first moved in if you went to a church the first time, your whole social life was planned for you. Every single organization in town and there were a lot of them, wanted you to join. I mean when people say Broomfield is unfriendly. You really had to watch or you were so involved.

You know when you talk about the neighborhood concept, this is why, in my mind, why you are getting such a violent reaction to Midway. That is breaking up our neighborhood concept. If you have gone to any of those meetings, they are angry meetings. Especially the people here. But even the other people, we feel like it is breaking up the concept. It's going to divide our city, and I don't want to get on that, but I think that's why they are so violent.

Well no, I think that this is important. It is important because you are looking, you're standing at a point where if you go from 24,000 to 124,000, you know we are talking incredible change. Lots of movement through, transient movement.

Shucks, I've been arguing with Thelma for 30 years.

Did you ever win?

No.

So folks have strong feelings and they are not afraid to vent them. And you still feel when you go to these meetings that you know your neighbors. You still have that home town feeling.

Not as much as you did, but I went to the meetings about Midway and I don't live on Midway, but I could see what was happening and what could happen to Broomfield with this street going in. And I talked to my neighbors and I said you know we don't live there, but this affects all of Broomfield. So somebody can save five minutes to get to Interlocken, it's ridiculous.

I was on City Council from 1973 to 1984 or 1985, something like that, and while I was on Council I had to go to other towns to meetings you know and I would see how they run their City Council and Boulder is one of them. And that place is a zoo and the people come down there and I would be ashamed to say they live next door to me. And I think here in Broomfield at the time I was on Council we had a few meetings where people were upset, but they came to Council, they had their argument down, it was reasonable even if you didn't agree with what they said, you could see how they got there. And I think our Broomfield people are very responsible and very community minded and they usually don't come to Council with some pickinish thing to crab about. Those kind have only been here about 6 months. The community itself cares very much about everybody in the community. There are people upset about Midway and there's people clear on the other side of town that come to support it and I think that is where we are kind of different. And I have not been to a City

Thelma Benschbach

Council meeting in any other city that I think was as responsible as here. And I really expected to see it. I had reporters from very newspapers, Denver, Arvada, Westminster would tell us how interesting our City Council meetings were. They would like to be reporters here assigned to us because they learned so much.

I think you walk a real delicate line here right now as an outsider, but someone from a community that is having some of the experiences which you have already had, it's real important to reclaim and rekindle how you came to be and to maintain that sense of hometown which is exactly what Debbie has been talking to me about, neighborhoods. I come from Chicago and that's a neighborhood city and boy people will maintain their neighborhoods. But if you get too big those neighborhoods become ghettos, they really do and so you have a really interesting transformation to be part of.

You asked how do other people regard us. Bal Swan, in all of his wisdom, determined that this city would have a garbage disposal in every house so we wouldn't have trash. Everybody had an incinerator out back and the hippie crowd up in Boulder decided that burning your trash polluted the air and the County Commissioners decided gee this is a good thing so we are not going to allow any burning in Boulder County. Broomfield refused and I don't know what the final threat was, but we didn't burn garbage, that was against the law, but it was what about a year that the City Council and Mayor refused to go along with Boulder's idea and finally their back was against the wall and we had to disallow burning in the suburbs.

I was just going to say, I think, I've always felt after sitting and watching the City Council operate for the 22 years I was the clerk I'd sit there with my own opinions on everything, I couldn't vote, but I had them of course. And I've always felt that on a local level Broomfield is responsive and I've told people if you have a gripe, come and maybe they can handle it for you. I've seen a lot of changes that people personally have brought about and I think that is good because sometimes you feel on a higher level, forget it. You know you can't accomplish anything, but I've seen a lot accomplished in Broomfield.

What are you worried about happening?

I'm afraid that Midway is going to go through, it will turn into a four lane highway, the people will loose their parking, they've already raised the speed limit in one section of Midway and the whole thing is going to connect Westlake and I think eventually it's going to connect with I-25 or 270 and it will be one big straight shot. I talked to Joe Jones, he said that people say it is never going to happen. He said they told us that when I lived on Colorado Boulevard. This is it and besides the traffic, the division of Broomfield.

I think that most of us are afraid that we are going to become a city by Aurora and not have our identity and Aurora has lost it.

There are two perspectives to that though. You look at it as dividing Broomfield and a lot of people look at it as uniting people so that those people from Westlake come and shop in those stores and not have to go down to 120th and not have go up to 136th.

But 120th is already there.

120th is the main highway.

But as long as it is there and it's geared for traffic and geared for business it would take it. I got in an argument with Jack at the station today. He said five minutes to me means a lot because he drives from Westlake and I said then get up five minutes earlier. He said you don't understand and I said no I don't.

If we took out a few stop lights that are planted out there that aren't needed, he'd have his five minutes.

Eventually 136th will pick up a lot of it.

Well, so will W-470.

These are very important things to think about because one thing about looking at the past, which a lot of people think is unnecessary, a waste of time, just patting ourselves on the back, talking about things that are already gone so who cares. I think you know that it is just the opposite. If you look at the past you find out what you've built of and what you're made of and most importantly what the dreams were because one thing we can do and this is something that is very difficult in our country I feel. People as individuals feel they can no longer affect change, so if an individual doesn't feel that he or she can affect change, then groups can never come together to affect change and I think our country is desperately at risk right now of losing that individual voice that comes together as community voice.

One person will make a difference.

Yes, but if we don't look back to the past and remember and listen to the people and remember how we were participants in that individual moving into a group, moving into community and having a vision and a voice, you know it is real important to preserve that. This is a personal opinion of mine, but yesterday evening a few people mentioned the word home rule and I thought that is interesting. That is real interesting because there are huge places in our country where people wouldn't even know what you are talking about or even believe it was possible and so community means communion. It comes from that source, It means to come together to nurture to nourish to enrich to share to exchange and I think Broomfield Days are about celebrating that community and it is real important to look back in the past and to listen to what made it so. Not that we have to be reactionary, we can grow and envision and interface, but on another level it is really important to remember what we held to be sacred and special, really important.

But, by the same token if you don't look ahead wisely, you can be in an awful jam. If we do not see the growth that is inevitable, growth is coming regardless of whether or not you want it, if we do not prepare the highways to go around, move the traffic efficiently, the parks and various facilities that we need, we will be in a Godawful mess. If you can envision Denver right now, you can't put a highway in Denver, you can't get through Denver, you can't get around Denver. Somebody should have had some vision 20 years ago and had 470 in right today.

Well that is a good point Bill because part of looking back in the past is obviously taking steps in the present.

If we are going to stand here and be reactionary against every little change, some are good, some are bad.

You need to look at the past and recognize where you are in the present in order to get a full spectrum vision of the future.

We can't have government by referendum either. We sit around and wait for the environmentalist group to say one thing and for some other group to say something else and somebody has got to make a decision to draw a line across this map and put the highway in.

Isn't it wonderful being human? Because finally we have all these choices as long as we have choices.

If it takes us 40 years to figure out whether we are going to have the irrigation of Two Forks, maybe sucking air out of the pipe before that happens.

Well you have a lot of, I mean your story is rich right now and what you do with the next chapter is going to be very important.

One interesting thing that we have seen in the 30 years that we have been out here is a lot of the young people that have married or gone to school, gone away and even their parents have come back to this community to settle and raise their families. We've seen many people, or they come back here to retire. It's that funny little community that we started here 20 years ago.

The kids that hated it in school are back.

And now, they are back, married and raising their families here.

They probably see it like I did. I lived in Lakewood and Wheat Ridge for 30 years and I wanted to come out here and get a business because I thought it was a nice little community, it was growing and also I just come out to see some friends here two or three times and just liked it. Since I've got out here I think we have the best police department around. I think the City fathers are good, everybody worked together in the whole town and I can't see anything that is going too bad with it. I think we are really going ahead and like Bill says, we're going to have growth, it is something we can't stop. We gotta do things the best we can to get what we want with the growth going on.

And always to remember the image that the community has had, has and will have.

Right and I can't see this thing coming down Midway. I frankly don't think it is going to happen. I just can't see guys going do it. I just can't see it, I think it's going to go around someplace else because it will divide the town and that's bad.

Well, I want to thank you. I promised we would be finished by 8:30 and it is almost 8:30. I want to thank you very much. We may depending on how we proceed with this project, we may want to get back together again one more

time if that is OK with you and it would probably be sometime in October if we do change the focus of the project, we'll see. But I want to tell you that these stories are going to be sifted through and I hope that I am an empty vessel. In other words you need finally a voice that just speak without partisanship. Somebody who hasn't lived in the community, but has some community experience that is similar, Coloradoan and a story teller because in the end, the stories that I'm going to select are going to be the personal stories, the things that aren't going to be written down that are the things that you are speaking now that we've got to remember so what you are going to hear when we do put this video tape together are your own voices, many of them not by name, some of them by name. They are going to be taken from these tapes and I want to thank you again with vision has to go voice. It is so important, personal voice and finally it makes a community voice and that is what we are looking for in this video tape. So thank you very, very much. I really appreciate it and I imagine I will be seeing you again. So, you've been very generous of spirit.