

## STORIES

Tuesday, August 18, 1987

Lot of stories to share with each other. Murray said, "You having this thing tomorrow night?" and I said, "Yeah, we gotta crowd 50 maybe 100 years of history into two nights and he said, well, we'll use short words."

My name is Marcie Tellender and I'm from Crested Butte on the other side of the mountain and originally from Chicago so I am a flat lander I have to admit, but I was raised in a tiny little town in southern Illinois, well actually central Illinois, and it's not so small anymore--Peoria. So now you can actually know that there are human beings living there and there are so many jokes about Peoria--I'm living proof. I am what is known as a cultural animator and I'm a storyteller so that means that one of my great interests and vocations in life is gathering oral histories from people who have lived long lives. I feel, and Debbie and your community, feel that it is very important that we remember. Literally gather together the people who are not with us now, the people who have experienced this community, the heritage of this community, its strengths, what has made that which it is today, so that we can celebrate Broomfield Days again and look toward the future based on who we are. So I am here kind of as a blank slate which is a good thing to do. You'd be surprised at how many people in your community don't know very much about it. And you may assume as you walk around with all of those stories inside of you that everyone knows them, but they don't and they want and need to know. Your stories and your lives are very important to this project that Debbie has created and that I am going to help facilitate. This will be a personal view of history in Broomfield and I emphasize personal because history after all is simply life as we have lived it. History books don't tell history, people tell history because people make history and so we are very interested in personal views of how life is in Broomfield. And those small experiences that you have had, nothing is unimportant. The more human, the more meaningful it is going to be to those people who are new to Broomfield or who haven't had the great depth of experience that you all have had. So, I feel that I am in a room filled with tremendous riches right now. I know that I am and Debbie has told me and Karen and so whatever you have to share will be truly appreciated by me, by Debbie and by your community as we make a performance and a video tape based on the personal human view of Broomfield. So I have got some questions that I want to ask you about and I think maybe we won't pass these sheets of paper out because I am real interested in your personal immediate responses to things. Ignore that. We all live in a technological society and you are used to all this gear all over the place I would imagine so don't even look at that or think about it. But we don't want to lose what you have to say. So I would like to begin by asking have any of you people heard stories about the first people who were here in Broomfield. The native americans, the very first people. Utes, Pawnee, Shoshone, Arapaho.

I don't know when they were here. Talked to Joe, he's a dentist and he likes Indian artifacts. Where the water tower is, he found, I think he found a stone ax and arrowheads right up here by the water tower. So they were here sometime.

Do you know what tribe?

*Bob Kojack*



No, he couldn't tell. I don't think he knew for sure, probably somebody could tell by the looks of them.

Was this a winter encampment place?

It gets awful cold here for being here in the winter time and also, I didn't see them either, but this place by the water tower, part of it belonged to my folks and me and in the pasture somebody knows about Indians where they had their teepees and skins. They say those rings are still there in the grass, it never really came back like it was.

From the campfire?

No, I guess the oil from the skin of the teepee.

Have you seen these?

No I haven't.

How did the first people then, after the native Americans. How many of your families were here and homesteaded land or came through pioneering.

I don't think mine got here quite that soon. It was 1908 when they got here so it was not that early.

What do you know about their coming? We have all come from somewhere else. Americans are wonderfully mixed. How, if you would, think about how we got here and that means your grandparents, your parents, from what old country, from what part of the United States and why in the world would they be coming across, heading for Denver or further west, were they moving toward the Oregon Trail or after that were they just looking for land to homestead. Just be thinking about this.

He lived in Cleveland, Ohio.

Who was this?

My father, James. He got to Kansas and he developed TB so we came here and settled here in 1908 I think it was.

What kind of community was it then?

I don't know, I didn't get along here until 1925. In 1930 why there was I guess 100 people and a probably counting a few dogs to get that. It was pretty isolated.

And it was Broomcorn?

No, it was Broomfield at that time.

But people were planting, farming.

There was a lot done before it was the end of broomcorn, I don't recall much of that.

*Ken Hoyle*  
I always wondered about that broomcorn history because when I came here during World War II we raised a third of the nation's broomcorn. And we thought we were about the northern limit for it and that was about 100 miles south of here so I can't imagine there was ever very good broomcorn.

Where were you from?

I came here from southeastern Colorado. Baca County. Ken Hoyle.

Dorothy Chambers down here on old Wadsworth actually had broomcorn growing on her property. I have some growing in my garden right now.

Ken would you describe it. If I was from another planet and I was looking at broomcorn for the first time, what does it look like as it is greenning and beginning to grow and gets its brush on. What's it like?

Well, as I remember it is of course in the grass family, closely related to Johnson grass. In the early stages it looks a lot like corn, but the leaves aren't quite as wide. When it matures the dwarf gets about 8' high, the standard probably 6', the heads might be a loose handful.

What color when it is mature?

It has a little brown color to it. The color of a broom. That is what brooms were made of that's where it gets its name. Of course there is no demand for it anymore except the little bit that is raised in old Mexico. In World War II it was still an important crop.

Who are some more of the first people, the anglos, the non Native Americans. Any of your early family members or friends. Stories you have heard of the first people who came here. Very important because Broomfield was built upon the base that they created and although some of them were here for 50 or more years before Broomfield was incorporated, actually 60 years, we need to know about them. Who were some of the early settlers here.

There was Eisenhower.

*Bob*  
~~Bob~~ Swan.

I think I know what you are searching for and I don't think you're going to find it because this area that we live in called Broomfield was originally Broomfield Heights and it was founded by about 5 or 6 real estate men who wanted to make some money.

There were people who lived here before though.

But they were in the old Broomfield.

Not all of them.

There wasn't anything built on this side of the railroad was there?



*Lojisek* Oh yes, our house. There was the Art <sup>*Dunphy*</sup> ~~Dunphy~~ Family, Archers, Brunners lived down where I grew up, just down two miles, Smiths, Bobby Smith's family the Zang family.

What about the Zang family and Zang Spur? And all those horses.

That was down along Industrial Lane where Zang Spur was I don't remember too much about it.

How did it get its name?

I don't know, but I just read about that. Again, that was before my time. I think that was just more or less a railroad sighting down there, there were a lot of cattle pens for shipping on the railroad. Somebody else probably knows more about it than I would, maybe they're not here like Carl Archer might remember more about it.

How about the percharon and the pony days they used to have.

When I was real small I remember seeing them. They looked huge.

Where did you see them.

Well they were about where 6th Avenue comes off of Highway 287. There were two huge barns in there where they kept them. Again, I was real small, but I can remember seeing them.

Are those the red and white barns that used to sit up there. There was a long row of elm trees.

Yes, there were two big barns in there and that was where they were.

*Bob Lojisek* There was a farm back there. My son got thrown by a horse over there.

Well Bob, did you go over and look at them, or were they working the horses, were they draft teams?

They were working them and most the time you'd see them when they would take them in the barn. I don't know how come I was over there of course we were neighbors, I'm trying to think who lived there by then.

What about Bal Swan? Thelma you started to mention the Swans. Great philanthropist. Early Broomfieldians.

*Thelma Benschbach* There are others. Ken probably knows more than I do but Bal Swan was supposed to be the father of our City and he had Empire Savings when we moved here so that's where I met him. Most everybody had their loan at Empire Savings and so when we'd go make the house payment we were given Bal Swan as payer. Later on I met Bal Swan.

I know my mortgage is with Empire Savings.

He had his office here in Broomfield.



What, Bal Swan's office was in the back of a police car, why Murray?

Because, Fred Spallone used to drive him around every Saturday morning and see all his enterprises. That's the only time I ever saw Bal Swan.

What did he look like?

Ken would know.

He was probably 5'8" I don't know what he weighed. He was about 200 pounds. He was the founder of Empire Savings.

Was he a fancy dresser? I mean did you have a feeling that here comes the banker.

Well he was well dressed. He always wore a stetson, called the open road stetson hat. He owned, at the time I came here, what is now the Rock Creek Ranch. He owned about 700 acres of it. He had some registered herefords there. I used to go up, the boys and I would go up and help his foreman with the branding. Of course I knew Mr. Swan because we called it the fluerdelease. He was one of the I think there were eight of those men that bought this place and started the City.

They bought the Rock Creek Ranch?

No they bought the Zang Ranch. There were Mr. Swan, Axel Neilsen, Mr. King of Silver State Savings, Rogenides with United Banks now, Casey Enzer, Pete ?, Spallone.

Are we talking about the early 60's now?

No, the 50's.

So it was bought, but not incorporated until 1961.

It was bought and they put something like \$2,000,000 which was a lot of money in those days in the streets and water system and sewer system and whatever sold the first lot. I understand the first houses were sold in 1955 about Christmas time. This same group of people were the ones that got the charter for ? in 1957. The charter for this bank was the first one granted by that Commission. However, they held it in abeyance until the shopping center was officially opened which I think happened in July of 1958 and until they named ?.

So you were the first President of the incorporated.

We started the bank and called it Broomfield Heights Bank because the town was not incorporated and this area was known as Broomfield Heights as opposed to Broomfield across 120th. In 62 when the town incorporated, the question of the name was on the ballot and it was voted to call it Broomfield we had to name it Broomfield Bank.

So you are talking about two communities on either side of the railroad.



Of 120th Avenue.

And now they were brought together and incorporated into Broomfield.

No. Not necessarily. Part of it has been taken in and part of what we call old Broomfield is still in Jefferson County.

Some of the people do not want to be part of Broomfield. They didn't want to be part of Broomfield Heights and they don't want to be part of Broomfield. They are old Broomfield.

I think it works both ways because I think the City in taking in Old Broomfield takes on a great financial burden also.

Well now you said something Ken about the dream of this being, I mean there was a plan for this community and it was to be something.

*Ken Hayle*  
When the toll road was built or at least planned and they knew this was going to be the pay station, in fact here where the interchange is now and you could not get off between here and Boulder or between here and Federal and so you paid toll here at the station. With that as the only exit from the toll road these men had the foresight to see that it was going to be a hub of transportation and thought it would be a good place to build a town.

It was going to be the 5th largest city in Colorado.

That was some of the publicity in 1958.

In five years there were supposed to be 60,000.

Yeah, well the economy changed in the early 60's.

Did the group of men who organize and bought and envisioned this community, did they, did the group have a nickname?

It was Turnpike Land.

It was Turnpike Land and the area where the industrial park is now that was part. They owned that and the company there was DAW Corporation.

But they themselves did not have a nickname as a group.

Not to my knowledge.

OK, I would like to know do you call yourselves Broomfieldians? Has it ever been decided? Broomfieldettes? Broomfieldites? I don't want to make a mistake because in Crested Butte, we can't decide.

*Helen Logiech*  
President Eisenhower had something to do with, but I remember one time him coming to ~~Casey~~ Enzer's show homes and I worked for ~~Casey~~ Enzer at that time.

~~Casey~~ Enzer?

*K.C.*

*K.C.*

*K.C.*



Yes, I worked in the show homes right on Main Street, the first four homes and one day one of the men--

What were you doing?

I cleaned them. I was in one of the houses when one of the salesmen came running in and said, "Helen go in the bedroom and shut the door." and I thought oh he's kidding me and I said why do you want me to go in the bedroom and shut the door and he said because President Eisenhower is coming over. Oh sure. I looked out the window and sure enough men start coming in and shooing everyone to get out of the way to get in and shut the door, do not come out and he did come in the house I was in.

What did he look like?

There were like three big limousines that drove up and I kind of tried to peek out the window, you weren't supposed to even look out the window and Al Heibert, was one of the salesmen, so the men came in first and then he got out of the car and he was in a black suit, already had the gray hair and then I lost sight of him. And then he came and he was in there for a little while and he left and the police cars and the black limos went and I came running out of the room and Al said, "He came right in the office where I was at." So he had something to do with it. He wasn't there very long.

I think Axel Neilsen got him into it. They were very close personal friends. His fishing spot was Axle Neilsen's ranch up at Frazer. He fished with Bal Swan on the Rock Creek property.

So this was during his administration in the 50's.

Yes, in the 50's, 1956 maybe.

Wait, I want to hear about these fishing buddies. Was there good fishing around here?

No, this was on Axel Neilsen's ranch up at Frazer, Colorado or in the lake on the Swan ranch. He was back here when they dedicated the library. The library was named after Mrs. Eisenhower. And he and Mrs. Eisenhower were and he was still in office and we had a reception. The only time I ever had time to shake hands with the President.

He wasn't in office then. It was in 1963.

So it moved from the cottage to the space it is now.

They moved about 5 times before they permanently settled into the library building in the Garden Center.

How many volumes?

Who knows? Too many.

That was built because they came here for the dedication.

*Thelma  
Bonschbach*



Oh yes, the building was up when they came to dedicate it in 1963 or 1964.

The first time I moved here from Kansas that was the first time I saw a tornado was the day of the dedication.

Would you describe that Thelma?

Well we were standing in what was then and still is the asphalt parking lot.

Of the new library that was being dedicated?

Yeah and people were talking. They were all facing the parking lot and the audience was looking north and here comes this cloud and it would go down and pretty soon the funnel would go back up and so everybody was looking at everybody else. I thought he was still President, what if Eisenhower was wiped out while in Broomfield, somebody better do something. And then all of a sudden the funnel, it wasn't too far away, maybe 2 miles, and it went back up in the clouds and that was the end of it.

Was the sky that horrible yellowish green color?

It was real hot.

It wasn't a typical tornado I don't think. It was strange that it formed out there because you know the typical situation and it wasn't that.

What month?

June or July.

What about storms here and we'll talk about snow storms in a minute, but what about tornados and rain and hail and wind.

The wind was a lulu that day because it took all the reception for Eisenhower and Mamie was next door to us at Dr. Kirkhoff's house.

The republican women were putting this on.

And they had the backyard full of these umbrellas and desks and tables all around and I remember the wind blowing those right over. My job was when they drove up in the car, I was to get Mamie on my arm and take her in the house see. So they drive up in their big limousine and they get out of the car and Mamie gets out and I say, "Mrs. Eisenhower, you're to come with me." and she grabbed my arm and we went in the house just boom like that. And I came back out and the general says or the president or whatever you want to call him "Where the devil did Mamie go?" And I didn't know whether to say Mr. President or general so I said "Sir, I took Mamie in the house, she's in the house." And I got to talk to an ex-President and I was so proud of myself.

Murray Brown, OK that's Murray Brown's story. Let's talk about storms, summer storms, those winds.

I can tell you about wind storms. Mary Miller. My kindergarten faced west in Emerald School. And the windows were going like this and they were calling

Murray Brown

Mary Miller



the parents to come and get their children and you couldn't let a child go without his parents being there so I ended up with about 5 I think, 4 or 5 the parents hadn't come or couldn't come so I took them in my car home and we had to hold hands to get to the car and the gravel from the playground was hitting our legs. That was the time I think that some of the windows blew out at the shopping center.

In January 1959 we had just opened the bank and it was on a Sunday during the stock show when a friend of mine called me and told me to come down and show some horses for him that afternoon, just as I was leaving, the police called and said get down here and I went down and it had blown all the windows out of the bank and ripped the drapes to shreds and this was a sore point because at the time there were \$1,000 drapes. Took big chunks out of the tile floor. And we went in and were going to the stock show and you can come with me and I started to go through the window and they said you can't do that, and I said the hell I can't. So he followed me and we got some of the machines covered up and toward evening the wind was down a little we got plywood and boarded the thing up and hired somebody to sit there all night with a shotgun. The stock show was in the middle of January. There was a time when they gathered up all the trucks and school buses they could find and drove them up under the canopy on the left side of the shopping center.

Who are ranchers here? What does that do with this incredible wind, the snow and the cold.

Go back quite a ways, in 1948 our youngest daughter was born around Christmas time, we'd just got her home from the hospital, I don't know how much it snowed, must have been 3 feet I guess. So first she had to have milk for formula, we had the whole dairy herd, we were pouring milk out on the ground because we couldn't get rid of it, but we had to have canned milk, pet milk. So I ended up getting the horse and riding an hour and one-half to Broomfield to get the pet milk. The only thing that was moving was the horse, the snow was up practically to her stomach and the county didn't pay any attention down here. So 2 or 3 days later they come down and plowed the road which didn't do a lot of good. That's one of the storms and it did that for a week or more.

Where did you go to the store.

Right across the river. There was a little red and white store there named Hobsons.

Don't you have a relative named Jessie who was one of the first telephone operators here. Do you have any stories with parents and aunts. Your sister Jessie was one of the first telephone operators here. What kind of a set up was it. Like a little shed?

No, it was in a house down on the corner of Lowell and 120th, right on the corner. The building is still there. There is a circle in the front when you go by it and there was a bell sitting in it, that was the telephone company. They took shifts. Jessie and Opal Gamble and Eppie Carlson and Thelma Myler.

How old were you Helen?

I was probably 14.

Bab  
Loziseh

Helen  
Loziseh



Did she ever tell stories about what it was like to be the lifeline to a small community.

Yes, but I can't repeat it.

Don't mention names.

I don't remember, it was so many years ago. It was a fun with the little plug.

Did she ever tell you about midnight calls for doctors or information from the Korean War.

No, that was long before then. This was before World War II.

Often the operators in small towns had to be the one to get the word out if there was something going on whether it was a disaster, somebody was getting married, a baby was born. Do you remember any stories like that? I would like to ask about more snow storms. Do you remember any others?

In 1982, that was a lulu. We live on Main Street and the snow was about 3½-4 feet high. My neighbor across the street, it was Christmas called my son up to tell him not to come down Christmas Eve, not to come down we were going to have them down for dinner, don't come down because you can't get here. He thought he was nuts, they didn't have any snow in Loveland. My neighbor across the street on 4th Avenue, he got out and shoveled the snow. The snow was up to my chest. He shoveled from my back door to the garage. I went through the garage and shoveled out to the road. Glen came out of his house and his porch and down and out to the road. This was around 3:30 or 4:00 in the afternoon. And at 5:00 we called them up and said my son can't come here we are with this big turkey and what are we going to do with it come on over and have dinner with us. OK. Come 5:00 it had all filled in. Louise had had back troubles so she couldn't get across 4th Avenue.

How did you spend this Christmas of 82?

Eating a 22 pound turkey.

I'm not going to tell how we spent it?

Oh Helen.

We spent it at the airport, Stapleton Airport. It snowed in half of the airport could not get out, we were there 2 nights and 3 days sleeping on the floor. Couldn't get out, couldn't get back. We were going to our daughter's in Durango for Christmas and they kept delaying the flight and delaying the flight and it kept getting worse and worse and pretty soon they closed it.

I spent that Christmas all by myself in my house.

Was that the first one Mary that you had spent completely alone?

Probably the first in my whole life. A couple of my daughters live in Broomfield and I couldn't even get to them.



Well OK, I like all these disasters, so we will keep going with disasters here. How about, does anybody remember stories about or remember the 1929 bank robbery?

I don't remember it but Miles Crawford was born in Broomfield in 1900 and I hope you get a chance to talk to him. He's in the nursing home now. His dad was Postmaster and he has a lot of pictures.

What are some of the stories that you have heard.

The bank robbery, the only thing we heard about that was that he was in the bank to cash a \$2.00 check at the time the robber came and put him in the vault, that was where the Broomfield Lumber Company. The vault is still there. They put Mr. Crawford in the vault and locked the door. When they finally got it open he was still down on his hands in the air.

A man who follows orders.

He has got a lot of history to tell. He had bees. He has a picture of his dad and his family taking the honey to Denver in the horse and buggy.

Do any of you remember him from when you were younger? Do you remember the bee man?

He just got rid of his bees two weeks ago.

Where did he keep his bees, 120th along the highway?

He put hives all through the countryside wherever there were flowers or hay fields and set them there.

How did they make it through the winter?

They leave so much honey in the hive.

He must have been good.

The bees in the winter are all in the bottom of the hive in a pile, they don't move very much.

He just had a few left and he found someone to buy them just a few weeks ago when he went to the nursing home.

Where is the nursing home?

Alpine Nursing Home down on 96th right off of Washington.

I have a clipping at home in an old scrapbook about a bank robbery in Broomfield in 1909. That was the very first one and it was when the bank is now that electrical building that used to be Mary's Cafe. It was there. And then before that there was a bank there is that where it was? It was robbed twice then. I have a picture, 1909 the guy that robbed it and his picture.

How about the train wreck of 1958? John.



*John Oster*  
It was a real important event in my life in that I was destined to drive a car load of boys up to a church camp that day. I was working in Denver and it so happened that the manager had to leave and he called me, the assistant manager, I was called to stay and manage the apartments that day. I was down on 8th and Washington in Denver at the Linai Apartments and this group of fellows that I buddied with we spent a lot of time in the orphanage in Denver and we'd take the kids on these trips and that particular day I was scheduled to drive a car load of these boys to the church camp.

You couldn't have been very old then. Were you teaching then or a counselor?

In 1958, I was in college. So I couldn't go so they had to get someone else to drive in my place and that group, that caravan that went into the smoke and had the accident and some of them were seriously injured and as I recall there were some fatalities in that wreck, and I would have been the second car in that caravan if I hadn't worked that day. And so there were some seriously injured people right at that point. Of course I have lived all of these years wondering, what if I had been there. Would I have had sense enough to stop before we went into the smoke or would I have drove in with the rest of them and helped make the wreck worse because the cars couldn't see. They started pulling over to the side of the road and crashing into one another and so I'm here today to tell about it and I don't know what would have happened and it is something that I won't forget.

Mary would you describe what you remember about it.

Two trains collided.

OK, but which two trains, do you remember? Coming from where?

One was coming from the north and the other from the south.

They were cargo trains?

The freight train was supposed to be about two miles down the track on the side, but he some how missed it. So here he come down that curve, by the elevators, just south of the crossing.

And so here they come, the passenger and the freight train and it is an absolute head on.

The lead engine on the freight train went up on top of the passenger train.

How fast were they going?

The passenger train was about stopped and the freight train was moving right along. Three train passengers were killed.

Then there was all this smoke, what month of the year, do you remember?

August.

So how did the community respond? What happened?



We lived about two-four blocks away, there was this tremendous like explosion.

*Thelma Benschbach*  
Thelma, what were you doing? Do you remember.

I grabbed my son, he was little then, like 6 months. And a lot of people were going up to see what had happened because we thought it was a car accident and then you could smell it and there were a whole lot of people that went up and they just stood there. And we knew the engineers, the trains were almost straight up, one was buried into the other one. And everybody was really standing there praying that they'd get the engineers out. It was real quiet. And the, I'm sure there were firemen, but I don't remember a fire truck.

Our former chief of police has a scrapbook and it has a lot of pictures of that train wreck.

It was a real awful thing that I wouldn't ever want to see again.

Did any of the engineers live?

One I think was dead, but they didn't know it and the other one died when the trains hit. I only know about the engineers.

Well John, what were you talking about?

I don't think this particular one was a train wreck. The coals caused fires on the weeds and the cars started stopping.

*John Oster*  
Wasn't it icy John?

I don't think so. I think it was in the summer.

We used to sell insurance on the wheat to people that had fields along the railroad.

Wasn't that a special train for that particular day?

Yes, it ran once a year.

Why once a year?

Sometimes it came through here more than once a year. But after that big fire, everyone got upset.

Why was it a special train?

It was a steam engine that threw the sparks out. And it would whistle a long way down and on a summer or spring night with the windows open you could hear it. There was a gang of us young parents with little guys and we'd hear that steam engine whistle and grab our kids and we had the perfect spot to go. By the grainery. But then you could go over on Industrial Lane and be up on a bluff and look down it and the kids and their parents had a fantastic time.

So it was just for show that it came through? It was a re-enactment.



An excursion and then it would go to Cheyenne.

Was it a wood burner?

Yes. It still does come through. It went in May only they're railroad buffs and they take the train and if there are enough seats they might sell some to the public on a first come first serve basis.

Ken, did people have insurance at the time of this fire?

I don't know what years. We paid off a time or two.

How about the first elections here in Broomfield? Politics in Broomfield, are we talking a republican town?

Non partisan.

Too many farmers.

Every farmer has his own idea. You can never get two farmers together. I could be a multibillionaire if I could organize all the farmers in America. If I could get them all in one unit, I would be the President and I would control the country if I could get all the farmers to be one unit.

So you feel then.

They are independent people, they've got their own ideas and they stick with them. They feel something and somebody else does too.

Ken <sup>Hayle</sup> ~~Hogge~~ got accused of being several different people.

Is the first election you are talking about now?

Well it was not the election. It was the incorporation.

I lived out of the city limits and couldn't vote.

We had to get the City incorporated first and the first election lost by a small number of votes so then we ran it again in about 6 months.

It lost by 3 votes and then passed by 20.

What is it like before election time here? What are politics like here in Broomfield, do they have a certain quality, is it different than say Denver or Boulder or Peoria, Illinois for that matter? What is the quality?

Everything is different in Boulder.

Could you fill me on that Ken? What are the major differences? How would you describe Broomfield in political terms? How would you describe Broomfield?

Quiet. A few people come to meetings and when you campaign you will find people who will ask you intelligent questions about what the City stands for.



Do you find a lot of people that.

You find a lot of people like that mostly on a one to one basis. The problem is in getting the people to come to the meetings to meet candidates and come to the meetings to ask questions and to just show up.

That's the problem.

That the problem. So that's why, as Ken says, we are a normal City. It happens everywhere.

The apathy as far as the voting goes is because they think the City administration is doing a good job. I think they have faith in their elected officials. I think there was a lot of anti or pro feeling before incorporation because some people had moved out here thinking they weren't going to have to go through government and have taxes. So that I think was the feeling of maybe they didn't want to be incorporated they just wanted to be a little sleepy suburb of Denver.

*Jack Elliott*  
This is heresy I shouldn't really tell you all this but in the second election, I was very much against incorporation as I was in the first election so both times I voted against us. My spouse was for it all the time so our votes cancelled out and later was she sorry.

Jack, what is your wife's name.

Betty.

Do you know anything about the first mayor and the mayors through the times here in Broomfield? Can you fill us in?

The first mayor was Don Decombs. Don served 3 terms-6 years and then Clyde Brunner, the veterinarian was the 2nd mayor and I was the third mayor.

Did you have a nickname?

Mr. Tightwad.

Did you have a tagline, you know a motto or a campaign slogan that you used?

I can't recall that I did. I just went from door to door.

Jack used to be an actor as a footlighter so he got a lot of publicity that way.

How long have the footlighters been around?

They went out of business at least 10 years ago.

They were wonderful, they put on shows in the old grange.

In the old grange, the one the ranchers had used?

On 120th.



Still use? Do you still have weddings there? Are the ranchers the ones that use that specifically, I know in my area in Crested Butte there are a number of granges that various ranch communities use.

They have square dancing Saturday night, church on Sunday. Crescent Grange.

Jazzercise.

Yes. Has anyone talked about the plays? The first time I ever saw Jack Elliot, he was in a play. We had a little theater in town that was fantastic. Joe Huddard's son was an actor.

What grange did you perform at, which of the granges?

Crescent Grange.

What role, do you remember what role you saw him in?

We went out several times.

I was in 1,000 Clowns, but we did it at the high school.

So you were the dad, Jack?

No, I was the prosecutor.

So, they never said Mayor Jack, that actor.

No. Most of the time they referred to me while I was in office as a bad actor.

In fact it was before we were Broomfield, we were Broomfield Heights a planned community.

How about, is there anyone in town, or let me ask this, every community has its jokesters, its tall tale tellers, Murray. I would like to know if you have any stories on Murray.

I have several.

This is usually the richest, ripest stuff.

Listen, you used to go in the paint store and you would go to buy a gallon of paint and he wouldn't sell it to you unless you had a note from your wife.

What was the name of your paint store?

Brown's of Broomfield.

Why did you all point at Murray? Why is he known as the tall tale teller?

To know Murray is to love Murray.

He's my neighbor.

*Jack Elliot*



What, are there any tall tales about Broomfield.

Jim Bales, you might notice on Main Street from 10th all the way down to the swimming pool that area behind the swimming pool is not developed. During the Brunner administration, I was on the Planning and Zoning, they had a bylaw in there that people would look for a PUD, Planned Unit Development, and that area was Planned Unit Development by Pearlmutter's grandson and he was a fly by night and he came out here and spent two years and he was going to build townhouses and, oh boy, everything out there, right across the street, east of Main Street. So of course we lived on the corner and we enjoyed that beautiful area there, you know, fields, and anyway he didn't do anything, he just, I don't really know what he did. It was in the bylaws of Planning and Zoning at that time, I don't if it is now or not, that if you didn't do something with the ground after they had received the Planned Unit Development OK, then it would revert back to its original zoning which happened to be agriculture. And so, on the last day that I was on planning and zoning, all you had to was bring it up and everyone had to vote yea because it was in the bylaws. So I brought it up and said that I wanted that reverted back to agriculture. I didn't want nothing built over there anyway and everyone said yea of course and it was thrown back into agriculture and I've always felt that is, that's been 31 years that we've been out here and that area east of Main has never been developed and I'll tell you we've enjoyed it. We've had wild horses out there and horses, they've had as many as 10-12 horses and never had any houses, cattle have been out there. We've really enjoyed that because we look out our window and we could see the prairie out there and of course now they've got the community center there. Now if you tried to get a Planned Unit Development, it's quite a chore and I'm sure that everyone will agree.

Are there any other wild or wacky things that have happened in the community?  
Yes, Ken.

*Ken Hayle*  
I don't know if this is wild or wacky or not, but I didn't dare tell anybody for 20 years. It's been thirty now. The year that the City incorporated what is now Broomfield Days was called the Broomfield Boom and it was in July and somebody, and I don't remember who, but somebody involved in the City, asked me if I could come up with a stagecoach and a team to transport the newly elected City Council, the Mayor and the Clerk. Well, anyway, up near Boulder there was a college on the property out on Arapahoe Road and a fellow named Buddy Hayes operated a horse outfit and gave lessons to students and he had a big old yellowstone stagecoach. So we asked Buddy if we could have a team and a coach. He said sure he would bring them down. At that time I was living across the road from what is now Atlas Park. He brought it down to my place and the Jaycees were mixed up in this because they came out to help put them away and if I hadn't stopped them we never would have got the harness put back together, they were taking loose every buckle on it. Anyway, they brought little team of black mares, the next morning I harnessed them and hitched them to the stage and thought I would warm them up before I came into the parade. I started out and one of worked pretty fair and the other one kicked me off the coach, got up and tangled in the harness and fell down and kicked and just couldn't do anything with her, so I called Buddy and told him the problem and he said wear a whip out on her and I said she's ours you come down and wear it out. So he came down and that's exactly what he did was whip her into formation and when he thought she would come, my son who was probably about 10 years old got on the driver's seat with me and we came into town, the parade



started over on First Avenue. I don't know who planned the placement, but we were right behind the band, and my problem was that as long as I could keep her moving I was all right, but when she stopped she didn't start again. I got a hold of this fella named Bob Taylor and who had a big old blue horse and Bill Hart who had a good old buckskin horse and I said I want one of you on each side and if I holler once you come out here and saddle on her ear because I figured she'd run away into the crowd. The band stopped every 50 feet, by the time we unloaded the dignitaries up here by where the bank is now, I was nearly a nervous wreck. At that time, the only part of the shopping center that existed faced west and this was all open field and we were going to raise some money by taking people for rides in a stagecoach. By the time we had finished the parade, I had had it with her and I started home with her and Dr. Brunner came along and wondered what the problem was and I told him. He said, wait a minute and he went and got his little black bag and he gave her a tranquilizer and about every two hours all afternoon I had to circle around and find Clyde. We worked them all afternoon and I had just barely got across 287 and started up the lane when she quit for good. We got after this Buddy Hayes about sending that kind of an animal and I found that his father, Pop. Pop Hayes was quite an old horseman. Pop liked his bourbon pretty well and Pop got liquored up and thought these two looked like they ought to work. She'd only been hitched up once before I got her in the parade. I kept pretty quiet about that.

Was that the first Broomfield Days, thirty years ago?

No, that wasn't the first one. The first one was in 1962.

When did they have the grand opening of the shopping center?

In 1958.

I told my husband to go up and win the hi-fi and he did.

Mary where was this?

The grand opening of the shopping center, big prize was a hi-fi and he won it. I said now you go up and win it, and he did.

What's his name?

Alfred Miller.

Turnpike Land owned the shopping center and later sold it to Transamerica Development.

Then when was the fire?

The fire was in 1958.

Which fire is this?

The shopping center fire. We trying to get everything ready to open the bank and we were scheduled to open a little area probably a notch or two south of where the barber shop is somewhere. There was a pizza bakery on the corner

Mary Miller

Ken Hayes



that apparently wasn't all that profitable and next to it was Casinos, John and Joe Casino had a gift shop and paint store. One night somebody broke in the back door of the paint store and set off dynamite in one of the paint cans and it burned roughly half of the shopping center. We weren't ready to open and Mr. Casino asked if we would consider letting him have our location because it wasn't burned so badly so that he could get back into business. We did because we wanted the end spot, we needed a side door, a second door to the bank and Casey Enzer, one of the directors, of the bank was also in construction and he got a crew in and rapidly rebuilt it so we opened the bank in 1,200 s.f. where the Public Service Office is today. At that time it was Broomfield Heights Bank because this was not an incorporated town. Later we built on a bookkeeping room with 600 s.f. out of cinderblocks, we had to take it back down again, that was part of the deal, the lease, when we left. So we opened then in November, 1958. And then when they built the other part of the shopping center facing east, it must have been 1962 or 1963, then we moved to where Radio Shack is now and doubled our space and we just thought we were doing great. In 1972, we built the first two floors of the existing bank. In about 1975 or 1976 we added another two floors.

*Bob Loggins?*  
I've got a story to tell on Ken here, Ken and myself. Years ago, why all of our kids, his kids and my kids, they had a saddle club. They all had ponies and we'd load them up every once in a while and go to Boulder and ride in the parade. You can imagine Ken, being a good horseman, but here's all these ponies, spoiled rotten and so were the kids. I remember one day we were trying load one and it wasn't going to load, no way. Ken kind of gave him a little nudge with his boot or something. Here was a little girl about this big age, she came climbing all over him, you're not going to kick my horse, but the horse went in.

You can only talk nice to them for about so long.

We did, I think we spent 20 minutes trying to get it in with about 30 others.

How many of you are mothers? I imagine that many of you have worked outside of the home also. What is it like, what was it like raising children in Broomfield Heights and, if any of you were here before this movement toward incorporation? Yes, Mary.

*Mary Miller*  
I can tell you that my older children had to go out of town to high school. They only had schools from, well when I first came in 1956, I started teaching in December in the county schools on West 1st and I got all the influx of the children in first and second grade, all the new one that came, but it went from there up through junior high. I had one girl that went to Arvada and another went to Louisville and another went to Mount Saint Gertrude in Boulder.

*↓*  
This was back in the late 50's?

This was in 1956. And I had a combination of first and second grade. I had just gone back into teaching.

You had the first kindergarten didn't you?

I started the first kindergarten.



My son was in the very first kindergarten.

What was the hardest thing about raising children here? Mothers?

I didn't think it was very hard at all.

This is the only group of mothers I've ever heard say that.

Well, there wasn't much recreation for the children, but most of us had young children that kind of grew with the City.

They made their own fun. I never heard them complain about not having anything to do.

There wasn't a pool.

We sold the property here where the pool is when the girls were little and our daughters first started school in the red brick school house up on Main where Dr. Killebrew's office is now and then they went to the cottages.

Wasn't that the first year the cottages operated in 1956?

Why are they called the cottages?

Because they were houses that were built by the builders to serve as schools.

We were our own school district at that time, we didn't have any money, we didn't have any taxes.

I can tell you where all the kids were on Monday nights.

Where?

At the Broomfield Swim Club, the dances there, we used to bring a band in.

What kind of music?

Oh rock, Elvis type. The police used to come, it started at 10:00 the first call and then they came the first time and quieted it down and turned the speakers around about 10:30, but we used to draw, there was, oh maybe 500 kids come up there from all around. Big dance, right on the deck the band came. That was what, 1960 to close to 1970, every Monday night.

What is your name?

Frank Gray.

Were you director?

I was the manager of the pool and a teacher.

My younger children went up there but my older ones didn't.

What did the older kids do before this?

*Kozick*

*Frank Gray*



They threw firecrackers out the windows and got put in jail!

There wasn't a swimming pool, public swimming pool, and we used to have the Broomfield Swim Club supplied the swimming needs of the community really because they were very liberal, they were a group of parents who, a corp group who really cared about the kids and people enjoying the pool. We had a limited amount number of members that we could have, but they used to have like Broomfield Days, that would be once a week, and you could slide the kids into the pool if you could find a spot because everybody in town used to come to the pool then.

Yes, Ken.

*Ken Hayler*  
I had actually been in town I think 8 months and I rented the property across the road where Atlas Park is now. I ran cattle the first year and some little girl was out talked me into taking care of a pony and she told her friends and they told theirs and we wound up with I think 30 kids. I was convinced at times that at least 10 other people came with every kid. I couldn't get it around my own place. One thing that made it all worthwhile was one time when the Chief of Police said to me, "You know we don't have any problems with those kids that have horses out there that you visit." And somehow that made all the aggravation worth while.

This was on your ranch.

Oh, just a place that I rented here across the road.

Across what road?

Across 287. It's an industrial park now, I just rented it. There was a barn and corrals and several pastures and I also rented another 126 acres behind it that belonged to later to Fred Spallone, but at that time to F.J. Leonard, so we kept as many as 25 horses out there. It was kind of headquarters for a lot of kids and their parents, brothers and sisters.

Did the kids name that place?

They had a name for their club, the Sunset Riders.

In the early days of Broomfield, there were a lot of horse units in the parade because there were a lot of them around and one year Governor John Love and his wife and their daughter, Becky, who was probably then 12 years old, consented to lead the parade and a local fellow who tried to be a horseman had a little two year old Arabian that he tried to break to drive the buggy to transport the Governor, first lady and his daughter and somebody asked me if I would a bring a horse in and just kind of be a safety man. I told them I would if Bill Hendricks, who was foreman out at the ranch would help me. So Bill came in and we were back up in the high school yards trying to line up the units by number and they sent a message to us that they wanted us up in the front of the parade. We went up there and they had the governor and his family in the buggy, but the horse was raising trouble. We rode up and the governor said, "Hi fellas, you want to ride pick up for me?" So we got one on each side of this little Arabian and that's the way we led the parade. I think if somebody had said Boo we'd both of come out of our saddle onto his



head. The last thing we needed was for the governor and his family to get hurt in our parade.

What year, do you remember?

When John Love was governor, but I don't remember what year.

What I would like to do is conclude, Ken has just fired some great stories at me and I would like to remind him of them so he can tell them to you and also so we can get them on the tape. Ken, why don't you tell about the airport and the story that just you told about that land.

Well, it was farmed when I first came here by TG <sup>Nies</sup> Neese, but Jack knows a lot more about Mr. <sup>Nies</sup> Neese than I do. It was a rocky old hill and he farmed it in wheat and some of the other farmers used to say that the only reason he raised such good wheat was because of the rocks sweat so much they'd water it for him.

And now that is the Jeffco Airport?

*Ken Hoyle*  
Yes, I also recall when they built the first runway. A fellow named Smokenburger owned the land out where Lang Boot Company is now. But anyway, he was dealing in livestock and he purchased a couple of heifers from Bill Grenemeyer and that night they jumped out of the pens. He came the next day and wanted to know if I could help him get them. So my son and couple of other fellas and I took horses and went up there and found them down at the end of that runway. They were two of the wildest things I ever saw. I matched a race with them right down the middle of the runway. He finally pulled right along me in his old Plymouth and said you can't turn them that way, take them on over to Tom Boner. We couldn't take to Tom Boner's either so we came north through a dozen fences and one of them got out on the toll road, it was quite an afternoon. I still remember running that heifer right down the middle of that runway.

How about the police force, you were just talking about?

Well, before the City incorporated, there wasn't anyone to hire a police force so the merchants took up a collection every month to pay the police force. We had two men McCarty and Chuck Stevens. We took up a collection every month. We did have a kind of active merchant's association. We put up a tent one time and had a petting zoo.

I want to ask you about the grave of the dog.

He's the one that used to take the money at the turnpike.

That's where the turnpike, where they paved to go to Boulder, Ken mentioned it.

He was just a stray dog that came there and the people adopted him. In the early days of the bank, they brought the money over to the bank every day to have them count it for them and they would transfer it to the Denver Bank. They would bring Shep along and it got to be a game to try and slip off and



leave him, but I don't know that they ever accomplished it, that old dog was pretty smart. He'd stick around when they opened the car door, he was in.

Toll places ~~shale~~<sup>shaped</sup> like a ship with a concrete buttress and glass windows. Shep would sit up on the concrete ledge and he would watch every person as they handed the money over and he got to be an institution after awhile, he was always there and people would bring him food. I think that they also had a tin cup if you wanted to contribute towards Shep's upkeep. They never found out who he belonged to, but he was there I think when we first came out here looking for a house.

What did he look like?

A shepherd dog. A farm dog. He got to be quite a favorite and then I don't know how, what happened to him or if anybody knows, but one day they found him.

He was shot and Dr. Brunner nursed him back to health and then later on he just got old and they had to put him to sleep.

So he is buried out there still with little bushes around it and stuff?

A russian olive that never gets older. Keeblers put an iron fence around it.

They had to move the grave when they redesigned the interchange.

They did, they moved the grave?

Oh, yeah that's one of the write ups in the Boulder paper about that.

They moved Shep and the tree and the little fence?

I don't know about the tree.

Is there anything there that says Old Shep?

Oh yes, he has a grave marker.

A stone one?

The people that did the turnpike contributed money and they bought a marker.

Is that tree still there?

What do you mean it is never watered, is it dying?

Well it would be a lot bigger if it got some water. Periodically, I'd request the City to take their water truck down there.

I would like to ask if we have a number of people in education gathered here. I'm really interested in asking you how education changed in the years since incorporation.

Thelma  
Benschbach



*Mary Miller*  
↓  
Well one thing was we were our own school district, school district 43 of Boulder County. We were picking warrants when we first came out here to teach because there was no tax base at that time, because there were no houses at that time to have enough taxes coming in at first. Mr. Elough was the first superintendent and I remember I had a room in the basement of the cottage school and his office was right across the hall from me. The next year I graduated and got to go up stairs. The parents wanted a kindergarten, well there was no money for a kindergarten so the parents were supposed to contribute \$12.00/month for each child to go to kindergarten. They did buy tables and chairs and I organized a group of parents and we made a lot of things for the kindergarten room, like we made big hollow blocks and we made doll house furniture. In fact the kids made some of the doll house furniture out of orange crates. We are still using those.

What year was this?

This was in 1956. I started in December, 1956. And so, then after the first year, the school district took over the funding of the kindergarten.

What do you think was the most terrifying thing that happened? You've told us about the wind storm, was there anything, lost children?

I had one little girl go home one day. I had one little girl that came and I had one little girl in my lap the first few days of school, otherwise she cried all the time. Everything went pretty well, we did a lot of our own things, we contributed a lot, our own supplies and things like that when we first started out.

What was the big surprise? Were you ever given a gift by the children or a surprise party or something that really touched you and moved you as a teacher and educator?

When we first came out here, we used to have programs at Christmas time and I remember one of the ones we had in the cottage, we were having the nativity and I fixed up a star that you could pull across the ceiling for the wise men to follow. Parents were appreciative, they gave you little gifts at Christmas time until it became a policy of the school district that you couldn't do that anymore. I have notes from parents.

How about from children? Thank you?

Oh yes, they would bring bouquets of dandelions and flowers and what have you. When we moved into the present Emerald School which was used before that as the junior high and the kindergarten rooms, one was used for the band room for the junior high and the other was used for the shop room for the junior high. There were the times when the population of Broomfield got larger and we had a lot of kindergarten children. In fact there were two or three years that we had three session of kindergarten in each room. One teacher would teach two and another teacher coming would three. Those were classes of 37 and 38 children. But we didn't complain.

What is the most fulfilling moment that you can remember of teaching?



There were so many of those. This one, I had one little boy who was quite a discipline problem and he would get disciplined quite often. In fact the kids started disciplining after awhile, I didn't have to. Everyday when we would line up to go home we would sing our little goodbye song, etc. and he'd look up at me and say I just love you Mrs. Gillmer, so it doesn't hurt to discipline people.

What was your goodbye song? Do you remember any of it?

I don't remember now exactly what it was, for awhile in the fall we sang about traffic lights. Red light, red light what do you say? I say stop. Yellow light, yellow light, can't think of that one. I have them written down.

Let me move to John, I want to thank you very much and John, if you've remembered some of the things I've asked Mary. The first thing I asked was a sense of overview of the changes you've moved into education here.

*John Ostner*  
I think with the joining of the Broomfield schools to the Boulder Valley School District, we saw an opening up of a broader tax base and financial support base that allowed us to bring a lot more services to students such as special education, music, P.E., art specialists and the curriculum consultants, support services for the teachers and me so I think we have a greatly enriched program since 1961 and becoming part of the Boulder Valley School District. We've seen additions of the schools, expansions of the plans, the addition of Kohl School, Birch School, the high school. The facilities have greatly improved. When we had the last addition, we had as I recall in school district 43 was the quanset gym and high school that still exist and I think at that point we had totally wiped out any ability for bonds or anything like that so we broadened our tax base considerably and sold a facility wise-program wise.

How about the other question, terrifying moment or amazing moment as principal? Was there any situation you can point to now that was solved, but was very difficult at the time?

I think the days of the high winds, when we had the 90-110 mile an hour winds, when we couldn't let the children go home because of the downed electrical wires and we had to have the parents come to get them and that was probably the most uncomfortable days I could recall.

How long did they have to stay at the school? Was this a long process after school waiting for the parents to come?

Probably 5:00 o'clock before we go the last ones. As I recall, this happened two or three times.

For you, moments of real fulfillment that you can think of, a moment as Mary pointed out, just one little phrase from a child or maybe a group of children.

I think the reward that means most to us is to have former students come back and give you a testimony of their successes and they will say because of you, I am now what I am. That is better than a pigtail.

Some of my students are now sending their children to Emerald School.



Frank would you respond to some of these questions?

*Frank Gray*  
Well, when I came, I came from Broomfield from old Fairview District. When you mentioned Pop Hayes, I had those kids in school in Boulder before I came to Broomfield and then with the reorganization, that was one of the biggest changes, when they put Boulder County into one school district, that changed the complexion for all the broader capacities and everything. When in recent times, probably the biggest change because I have always been in the junior high school was building with the philosophy that goes with the middle school. It was an entirely big change and it was kind of a model or something for the whole state. When I was at the middle school, people were coming in to look at it and see what was done there because of the difference in philosophy between that and the junior high schools and people contemplating going into that. So that was a big change for me and I think a big change for the whole district.

Amazing moments?

Amazing moments, I was wondering whether to tell this. I think we can hang the wash out here. I describe the 60's. That was a few probably. I remember one graduation where if you can remember streaking, I can remember we were down in the gym, one of the other coaches and myself and we heard the kids telling about they were going to get up into the multipurpose room and take our clothes off and were going to do this. So the other coach and I went up there to try and interrupt this, but it had already started. So they were on the outside and there is a platform on the outside and they were really being shielded by there was a rail and wall and stairway, but they were out there and we could hear them and so we went to get out there and I got out there and the door shut and the kid had his clothes off and the door shut and the I couldn't get back in. So I was standing there and they said Mr. Gray is there now. And I was trying to guard the kid that had his clothes off and we were all locked out of the building and the other coach was on the inside and I think he was a little late on the door.

Was it cold out?

No, it was right the last day of school so finally we got back in and this boy was saying, Mr. Gray, Mr. Gray, I just hate you Mr. Gray. So we went down to see the principal, Mr. Tonesh, and I went down there and explained the situation that we had interrupted the streaking incident and another teacher came around the corner and he said they are out at the football field running. So I guess that was it. These are probably some of the finer citizens we have right now. Kids in junior high school, they would pick up. They were doing this at the university and they were doing this everywhere so it was, I don't know that we will ever go through anything like that again.

I remember the juvenile delinquent I had in kindergarten.

*Mary Miller*  
The juvenile delinquent? I taught at the inner-city schools in Chicago, so I am just amazed at the juvenile delinquent.

I had just a perfect kindergarten class and this little boy came in and he changed everything. All the little boys did everything that he did. He came to school whenever he felt like it. When he got ready to go home he'd go out



and pick up one of the bicycles from the bicycle rod and ride it off. He was really quite a character. I was wondering what his leadership ever went into after that. I only had him one year, thank goodness.

*Thelma  
Barnack*

I would like to comment on this that before we were incorporated, we had our own little school district here. Once a week you went to a school board meeting and the superintendent ran out the applicant's qualifications for being a teacher and we'd listen and we were really hands-on involved in the schools. Then reorganization came and everything went to Boulder and Broomfield sat out here and, if we got any attention, it was to patch the roof. And you'd have to wait a couple of years to get any additions and we'd get teachers that perhaps were unhappy in Boulder. And then we had the junior high which was caught in the middle and Frank tells the story and he doesn't tell you that at one time there were 900 students in that building. There was not physically room to hold necessary, basic classes. It was a zoo. And the fact that we had any control in the schools was a credit to the teachers. And the community got together and we got the middle school and it was Broomfield's Middle School, it was a quality school. The City of Broomfield and the parents and the people were involved in the design and program and the teachers were involved. And we worked hard. The last thing we did was, there was a committee deciding what kind of name it should have and it had all kinds of wild names, but the majority ruled and it was named Broomfield Middle School. There was a little battle over whether Heights should be there or not. But that is a miracle. Sitting up there it shows what this community, because we're a bunch of unique, bullheaded, independent people, got together and did.

There are middle schools in the district, but that is the only middle school where the facility and everything was built for a middle school philosophy. Louisville and Lafayette have middle schools, but they have gone into old high schools. The middle school over here everything is incorporated, the principal, Walt Grebing, is a real expert on middle schools.

Walt had to fight pretty hard to get the middle school concept adopted by Boulder Valley School District. I had run for the school board for Broomfield and it took about 4 years and it was a struggle all the way.

How long has the middle school been here?

About 4 years. It sits up on the hill.

In comparison with our high school where the quanset, it was built throughout the quanset, the gym, the high school was actually built around the gymnasium. That was the basis of the high school. The high school was built around it. The quanset sat there all by itself with the junior high which was the high school at that time, and so then when they built the new high school, they just built it around the quanset. So that was the kind of treatment we're kind of talking about. Talking about Boulder, that was the kind of facilities we felt we were getting until the middle school.

I think that was the reason for going into Boulder Valley School District was to get more facilities and we were able to get a high school, where it would have been many years down the road to get a high school if we hadn't gone into them.



We are getting close to the time when we should be coming to a conclusion. I want to talk with Lucille. Lucille was born in rural Broomfield and has worked with Ken throughout the years and in fact Lucille said you know, if you went into talk to Ken, you better not have anything else to do because he has some great stories. Everyone of you or your names or your files or whatever has gone through Lucille's hands, she probably knows more about anybody here than the local general practitioner. Lucille just tell us a little.

I grew up on a farm 8 miles northeast of Broomfield. There was never much reason to come to Broomfield because there wasn't anything here but a couple of saloons, I guess you would call them and a little grocery store.

Were you born on a ranch or a farm?

It was an 80-acre farm that my dad had with hay, wheat, sugar beets. My dad farmed, never made much money, but there were ten in the family and we always had enough to eat. He had chickens and eggs. When we went to high school, we just went to a little two room school house, grade school, 1½ miles from where we lived and there was no high school around so we all had to go to Lafayette High School and the school district where I lived, which is District 12 now, Adams County, had to pay tuition for all of us country to go to Lafayette High School and they sent around a school bus, and that's when I got acquainted with some Broomfield people. The bus would go from Lafayette, out east and then down back through Broomfield and picked up all the Broomfield kids. There were a few kids in Broomfield then that didn't like to go to school so we would get stopped on the country road and if it had been raining and the roads were muddy, they'd push the bus off into the ditch and we didn't get to school. So I got acquainted with Broomfield kids.

All I remember is having to push it out of the ditch.

And then when Broomfield started and I decided to go I had to work, my children were just starting school and I went into the Broomfield Bank and wanted just a part-time job because I wanted to be home when my boys got home from school and they said there were no part-time jobs, I had to have a full time job, so I filed checks for 6 months, that was in 1960 and I'm still there. I'm vice president now, I've been there 26½ years. I've seen a lot of things happen.

What's the funniest thing you've seen happen?

At the bank, I know each time we moved from one building to the other we had this big orange safe we called it pig. And we had to roll that safe and we had usually help from one building to the other and even when we moved into the new building why we rolled it over there. They usually had a truck. It is not there anymore, it has been sold.

What about the saddest thing Lucille?

Now that I have been there for so long I do take care of a lot of the senior citizens and take care of their accounts. I do see a lot of them pass away and it's sad to see older people go.

Lucille  
Barnett  
✓



*Shimpalek* One of the saddest things that happened in Broomfield early was when Russ Shimpalek's daughter died. He was the principal of the junior high. That was over in the cottage schools. My daughter and she were very, very good friends. She went in for a tonsillectomy and when they gave her the anesthetic, she died. She was allergic to it evidently and the kids all went out after that and went from door to door to collect for a memorial for her. It was at Christmas time.

My daughter was also a really good friend of hers.

Do you remember Trudy Murdock? Trudy and she were really good friends.

Well, what did they do with this memorial fund?

I don't remember what happened to that, but I remember it was at Christmas time and they had the services in our church the old church where the taxidermy is now. That is where the church was and they had a service there at Christmas time.

Well, Lucille, from your point of view, what can you say if you were describing Broomfield to me coming from Crested Butte? What can you tell us?

*Mary Miller  
or John Oster* Oh, I think I have found that people in Broomfield are really friendly people, as far as the bank goes, they aren't hard to please. Broomfield Days, etc. they get together and accomplish a lot of things. Talking about the school, there was one funny story about I think it was a first grader in the school. They lived right across the street from the school and they went around it and they asked him what his father did and he said his father was a bank robber. This was in the paper and it happened that his father had robbed many banks in Oklahoma and Kansas and really was. Sort of scary thinking he was that close to our bank.

I was really upset because the FBI came in and told us that we have men with automatic weapons across the street on Garnet Street and we wanted some information because it was time to send the kids home. They would not cooperate with us and we sent kids and we had to send kids home because we didn't know what was going on. We realized after that we would not have cooperated if we had known, we would have kept the kids at school, but they didn't tell us anything, they just said we have FBI agents in your neighborhood and we wanted more information and they said they couldn't tell us anything more and so we dismissed the kids at 3:15 and went out and found out that here they were across the street apprehending the bank robbers with automatic weapons.

So this is yet another bank robbery.

It wasn't a bank robbery no, they were apprehending some bank robbers in that home. They lived in the home right at the end. The kids came under assumed names and it was amazing how they would give their names.

And it was because of this kid saying his dad was a bank robber?

No, this wasn't the same family.



This is another bank robber kid?

The father had robbed banks in Oklahoma, but none in Broomfield.

It just goes to show that Broomfield is a very safe place otherwise they wouldn't come through here for safe houses. Yes, Ken?

First of all, did they have a high school before the salvation of the schools?

The kids went to Lafayette and Louisville. That was kind of a sore point because I was in the other part of the district and we went ahead with their district and built the high school. The people voted and we took responsibility. We owned that area and that was kind of Broomfield and they said well look at Broomfield is waiting until we reorganize for their high school.

And we had to hold that election twice too. The other question was Don Melliman was involved quite a little bit in this area in education wasn't he.

I don't really know what involvement there was there. I'm not sure he was involved.

He was president of the PTA.

That would have been before I was here.

That was when we were still in the cottage schools.

I thought he was quite active.

I don't think he was in the schools themselves.

He ran for some office and I'm wondering if it was the school board.

Thelma, I would like to ask you about the push for the park development. Can you tell us what that was like for you? Those of you who can, please come back tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated. There's a lot more obviously, some very rich long lives, some wonderful stories. Are you coming back tomorrow?

We didn't have any funds. We had an area off of Midway that was supposed to be a park but the Council never did buy grass seed and various people like Joe Berger and Ed Summit, he had a bunch of boys who planted some trees out there to try and get it started, but it just never really got off the ground. We didn't have a parks department in the City and the Council felt that there were other things that needed to be done around here on streets and water, etc. but we had a committee appointed I think that Dr. Brunner was the one that asked that it be set up to look into all aspects of obtaining parks for the City of Broomfield which turned out to be a huge job because they wanted to know all the different ways we could supply parks which included special district, joining a special district, having our own district, going in with the school district, all these different things we had to report to the Council and so we did. We also recommended, which is typical of Broomfield, that we have our own. We don't want to share with other people we want to have it here and we wanted a department of parks and recreation as a part of

Thelma  
Benschbach



City government and that didn't go over too well. And so we had a special election and while we did that that was citizen initiated that a parks and recreation district be established and secondly and separately a sales tax. Well that was citizen initiated to finance it and this building we built, the community center and it passed. And that was the beginning of parks and recreation. We did have through negotiation with the City the city has some very good ordinances when developers establish high density zoning, there are formulas as to how much open space and park space they have to donate to supply the needs of the people of that development. So we have acquired park land and developed it.

Was the parameters of the land already in place from the beginning of the town?

Now, where we are sitting tonight, some mentioned earlier about Pearlmutter and his high density homes. That came in before I was on Council, that is one of the reasons I ran for Council. Extremely high density zoning, apartments, condos, it was more than we had anywhere else in town that was approved by Council. This other little goody was in, so they got 52 acres in dedication to the parks and when it reverted back to agriculture zoning we still had the 52 acres and that is this park. Now there is a master plan that can't be implemented until development comes along, but there is a master plan that goes down Midway to Brunner Ponds and we beforehand had mainly drainage and what we want to do now and I hope that Council continues is to get land that can be built on because if you use drainage plan you're on a flood plain.

Have you ever seen tubing in Broomfield? It's better now because they've done a lot with the drainage, but before the drainage anytime there was a thunderstorm it would fill the whole park up and the kids would run and get their tubes.

I just wanted to add on to what Lucille was saying that Broomfield really can take pride in what it has achieved particularly toward becoming a home town, USA. I think it goes back to what we see, Ken mentioned that when the merchants started their own police force and see what has evolved over the years. I don't know of another suburb that has the spirit that Broomfield has. It seems like it has evolved over the years and the City and the Parks and Recreation Department I think has had the personnel, it seems to me, that what has happened is just tremendous for kids and the people who live in this town. As we were going on, it seemed like the City government, which included the parks and recreation and the merchants have worked together with that goal to make Broomfield a special place. I think any town will try to say that, but I challenge anyone to try and match what Broomfield has in terms of that real place where kids will be proud that they were born here and grew up here. My sons will be able to say my hometown is Broomfield. I think our town really has something that the people all fit into supporting and getting involved. It's something precious that we want to hold on to.

In order to close this, I'm going to pass this mike around, I'm going to hold, it but I would like each of you to say your name and then I'm going to come back and I would like to have each of you to pick one of these things to say. I would like for you to either give a short, very brief sentence about an experience you've had in Broomfield, maybe just a brief phrase. Might be, Lucille might say and then there was the day we had to move the pig to the



bank. I'm just talking about parts of moments. Pick one of those, part of a moment that you have experience here and remember we are talking about a whole community. This is a community with all sides to it. There have been difficult times, triumphant times, humorous times, serious times and that really is what makes a whole community, the honesty of that. First we'll go around and I'm going to just point at you and you just say your name and the next time we'll go around and I'll point at you and just say a phrase of one of the things you've shared this evening. The third time I go around, I want you to say Broomfield is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever you want to say and if someone else says what you were going to say, that's fine. First with your name, second a little piece of a story you were told tonight and thirdly, Broomfield is what.

Frank Gray, John Ortner, Thelma Banschbach, Karen McGuire, Mary Miller, Jack Elliot, Lucille Barnett, Ken Hoyle, Bob ~~Cognisak~~ *KOZISEK*, Helen ~~Cognisak~~ *KOZISEK*, Lucy Brown, Murray Brown.

Being a part of an educational system and a community that is really concerned with their children.

The quality of the community is shown in the state championship teams they have produced.

The middle school is a symbol, it is our school.

The years pulling the museum together with the help of the people who lived the history here.

A good place to raise my family, to teach children and to stay here.

I was impressed with the speed with which this new City achieved political maturity by adopting home rule a number of years ago, and I must say, with a lot of credit going to Thelma Banschbach.

Just having the opportunity to work with Ken Hoyle in the bank and to serve the people of Broomfield.

I think being a part of Broomfield and hopefully helping with its development is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Staying here 62 years and see what will happen next.

I think raising my daughters here and now my daughters are raising their children here.

It's been a real pleasure to have lived in Broomfield 29 years and 22 of those were spent in the service of the City of Broomfield as a City employee. It was wonderful.

I agree with Lucy.

Broomfield is a great place to raise children.

Broomfield is hometown USA.



Broomfield is unique.

Broomfield is my home.

Broomfield is the only town with its name in the United States of America.

Broomfield is a jewel of a city.

Broomfield is a caring people.

Broomfield is a great community to be connected with.

Broomfield is a fine place to live in.

Broomfield is the only place I will ever live.

Broomfield is the pride shown in our children who were raised here. My daughter's 20th high school class reunion was here and she came from Ft. Collins and organized about 100 kids and I think she feels proud too.

Broomfield is a great town and it always will be. It will always be our home.

BROOMFIELD!

Thank you very much. I hope that some of you will join us tomorrow night because you have been so forthcoming with your wonderful, honest stories and I think it would be a real benefit to be encouraged by you. We have not finished, there are so many things that I want to know more about. I want to thank you all very much for your participation. Frank, thank you for the wonderful streaker story.

John, I want to thank you for your ability to bring together some of the spirit, the views of concept about Broomfield. That is very important because we are right now talking about something that is conceptual. It is not something that we can touch. It is spirit and I really appreciate that.

The first grocery store was in the basement of the Empire Savings and Loan and the first drug store was down there. We didn't have any churches here either.

The old Methodist church was the only one.

The catholic church was in the basement.

What was the name of the original grocery store?

Jim VanBuskirk ran it, but I don't know what they called it.

Gene Hill. That's right, that was kind of a sad thing, because Safeway, when you're talking about a small town, that was everybody's grocery store. Safeway moved in there and Gene tried to fight the battle for awhile and that was kind of really sad, whether to go to Safeway or help Gene fight the battle.

Safeway was here before Gene was and had a store where the drugstore is now.



When there was an attempted to unionize the store Gene told them to stay off the property and some old boy stepped up on the property and Gene just cold cocked him.

That old boy was a great, big, red-faced hoodlum like Chicago and I was one of the three that he wasn't going to let go in the store. He was threatening people and Gene came up and he called back and I'd never seen a man hit a man before in my life. But he just plugged him.

It was because Gene wasn't unionized.

This was the grocery called the Grocery Boys, it turned into Thriftway. It is where the hardware store is now.

The original Safeway was where the drugstore is and then it moved and Gene Hill had this grocery store that a lot of us went to and then Safeway moved into the big store and built where they are now and that was--it looked like running Gene out of business.

Now we have three big stores in three counties.

Thank you so much, all of you.