

2022.1.15

📅 Fri, 4/22 11:31AM ⌚ 47:07

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

dad, broomfield, lived, big, long, people, kids, remember, stamps, pickle, house, play, carl, farm, horses, school, teachers, farmer, car, wear

SPEAKERS

Don Archer, Eleanor McKinley

E Eleanor McKinley 00:07

Good morning. My name is Eleanor McKinley. I am interviewing for the Carnegie branch library for local history as well as the local Broomfield library. The date is February 24 1997. The name of the person I'm interviewing is Don Archer. Good morning, Don.

D Don Archer 00:28

Good morning.

E Eleanor McKinley 00:30

It's so much fun to be here. And I'd like to know when and where you were born?

D Don Archer 00:36

Well, I was born in Hygiene, Colorado. in 19, May 30 1914

E Eleanor McKinley 00:44

1914.

D Don Archer 00:45

Yes.



E Eleanor McKinley 00:46
And then who were your parents?

D Don Archer 00:50
My dad was E. E. Archer. My mother was Mary Stafford.

E Eleanor McKinley 00:57
Where they from Hygiene originally? Or where did they come from? They came from Tennessee, Oh from Tennessee?

D Don Archer 01:04
Yes.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:04
Well, how did they find their way to Colorado?

D Don Archer 01:08
That's a long story. And I've heard so many different tales about it that I just don't know.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:18
Do you think he was searching for a job or?

D Don Archer 01:21
I think probably they were just looking for some good ground to farm.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:27
And what year did they come to Colorado?

D Don Archer 01:29
Oh. I just don't remember.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:35
It must have been in the early 1900s then?

D Don Archer 01:38
It was early 1900s.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:41
And and they came from Tennessee. Do you know where they were their folks, their folks from England or, do you know anything about the past of your great grandparents or?

D Don Archer 01:52
No, don't.

E Eleanor McKinley 01:54
Tell me a little bit about your brothers and sisters and when they were born and where?

D Don Archer 01:59
Well, I have a sister. Nell. She's passed on now. Brother Carl, he's passed on. And brother Sam, he's passed on. And those three were born in Tennessee. Then I had a sister Irma and sister Maxine. They were both born in Longmont. And Irma, is, like I said, is passed on. And Maxine now lives in California.

E Eleanor McKinley 02:33
Oh, she does?

D Don Archer 02:34
Yes.

E Eleanor McKinley 02:34
Do you see her very often?

D Don Archer 02:36
Well, about once a year. Either they come here or I fly out there

E Eleanor McKinley 02:42
Well, that's wonderful. It's wonderful that you get to see her that often

D Don Archer 02:44
But, uh, we call quite often keep in touch.

E Eleanor McKinley 02:47
So the two of you left

D Don Archer 02:49
Yeah just the two of us left

E Eleanor McKinley 02:50
Out of five children? And well tell me about the early days of living here in Broom, in Broomfield.

D Don Archer 03:04
Well, there just wasn't too much going on around here at that time.

E Eleanor McKinley 03:08
Where did you live?

D Don Archer 03:09
There was a farmhouse directly across the road from where that Grease Monkey now sets. And we found Well, when we first came to Broomfield, I was only 11 years old. So I didn't do much farming. But I did help around the farm and farmed 160 acres across there with my dad and brother. And I went to school in a two room brick building, over on about 10th and Main right by the cemetery. And I went I was in fifth grade when we came. I went through the eighth grade there. And at that time, we had graduation on the eighth grade

E Eleanor McKinley 04:07
Was the Lorraine school here then

D Don Archer 04:10
the Lorraine school set down on 112th and Pierce

E Eleanor McKinley 04:15
well I'm surprised they let you go to the school in In on 10th in Main, because why isn't that just for the people who live on the other side of the highway?

D Don Archer 04:26
See Highway 287. That's the line, Boulder County in Jefferson County. So on this side of the 287 all the kids went to Lorraine school. On the other side. We went to Broomfield school.

E Eleanor McKinley 04:43
So you lived on the other side

D Don Archer 04:45
I lived on the other side at that time.

E Eleanor McKinley 04:48
Tell me about that school. What was it like?

D Don Archer 04:51
Well, it was just a two room school. And I think the most I've ever had was about 40 kids for all eight grades, two teachers, but it was a lot of fun. Recess, the teachers would all come outside and play games with the kids to keep them out of trouble, I guess.

E Eleanor McKinley 05:19
What did you play ball or, or marbles? Or what did you do during recess?

D Don Archer 05:23

Well, mostly we played ball. Or they had a game they called pump, pump, pull away

E Eleanor McKinley 05:30

How do you play that?

D Don Archer 05:32

Well, the kids would all get in a, in a group holding hands. There'd be one group at one end of the playing ground, another group at the other hand, and they would send one person from the first group over to try to pull one of the kids away from this group that was holding hands. And that's where the trouble would begin.

E Eleanor McKinley 06:02

Were there any fights?

D Don Archer 06:04

No, no, no, the kids got along

E Eleanor McKinley 06:06

did you play Red Rover, Red Rover send somebody over?

D Don Archer 06:10

No, never heard of that one

E Eleanor McKinley 06:11

Never heard of that one. And that's what you played in Kentucky.

D Don Archer 06:16

We played a lot of baseball. And we would have races. And our teachers generally kept us pretty busy doing things that way.

E

Eleanor McKinley 06:28

Do you remember the names of your teachers?

D

Don Archer 06:32

The first one I remember was a lady by the name of Mrs. [Gladsby]. And she was just a real nice person. She took an interest in the kids and she would stay after school if you wanted the help and help you as long as you wanted to stay.

E

Eleanor McKinley 06:52

That was wonderful.

D

Don Archer 06:55

And then we had a man teacher, his name was Page. And he was real good about keeping all the kids busy. And he even started us playing basketball. And he went on into teach up in Lafayette.

E

Eleanor McKinley 07:15

Where there eight grades there.

D

Don Archer 07:16

Yes.

E

Eleanor McKinley 07:17

And so then what did you do when you graduated from that?

D

Don Archer 07:20

Then I went to Lafayette to high school. And then I graduated again from the ninth grade.

E

Eleanor McKinley 07:30

So did you graduate from high school?

D Don Archer 07:31
Yes, in 1932

E Eleanor McKinley 07:33
1932? Do you remember any of the teachers there?

D Don Archer 07:39
Yes. Let's see? Trying to think of their names now. When I particularly liked was a teacher by the name of Mrs. Harmon. She was our English teacher. And she was the one that also put in put on plays in high school. And she was just a wonderful teacher. She took so much interest in all the kids. And then we had another teacher that I liked real well. He was a man. And I just can't remember his name now. He was our science and physics teacher. And we had an awful lot of fun with him. But I can't recall his name now.

E Eleanor McKinley 08:39
What do you remember any classes that you took in particular? Did you have homework?

D Don Archer 08:45
Oh, yes. had all kinds of homework. I took just the basic classes. English. All the math I could get. And history course I had to take that. And I took Spanish

E Eleanor McKinley 09:08
Goodness. Yes. There. Were there. A lot of Hispanics there in the classroom?

D Don Archer 09:14
Quite a few. Yeah.

E Eleanor McKinley 09:15
Any black children.

D Don Archer 09:17
There was two. That was in the whole school that I can remember.

E Eleanor McKinley 09:25
Were they given a hard time or?

D Don Archer 09:27
No,

E Eleanor McKinley 09:28
Everybody got along.

D Don Archer 09:29
Everybody got along

E Eleanor McKinley 09:30
That's great. Tell me about your house that you grew up. How many rooms Did it have? Did you have electricity in the early days?

D Don Archer 09:37
You mean when we first came to Broomfield? Now when we first moved over there. We didn't have electricity, but it wasn't done in about a year or two. That they did put some in. But we didn't have a bathroom in the house, but we had a bath. And let's see, there was three bedrooms in the house and a living room and a kitchen. And then I don't know about the last five or six years that I lived there, we finally a built in a bathroom in the house. And we got all fixed up just real modern

E Eleanor McKinley 10:31
What was the street address? Do you remember?

D Don Archer 10:34
No. And we didn't have any numbers on the house.

E Eleanor McKinley 10:40
Did you have a telephone?

Did you have a telephone?

D Don Archer 10:42
No, not at first.

E Eleanor McKinley 10:44
Do you remember your phone number after you got it?

D Don Archer 10:48
No, I don't

E Eleanor McKinley 10:49
Didn't have very many numbers in those days.

D Don Archer 10:51
No, no, there wasn't many numbers.

E Eleanor McKinley 10:53
Now tell me about the sleeping arrangements because there was seven of you.

D Don Archer 11:00
Well, at that time, I had my own room. And my sister Nellie. She worked in Denver running a cleaning store. So Maxine, and Irma. They had their room together, and then my dad and mother had theirs.

E Eleanor McKinley 11:20
When you were younger. How did you all manage with five children and three bedrooms?

D Don Archer 11:29
Well, when we's up in Hygiene? I was so young, then I just can't remember.

E Eleanor McKinley 11:37
Did you have a coal stove?

D Don Archer 11:39
Yeah.

E Eleanor McKinley 11:39
That's how you heated the house.

D Don Archer 11:41
Yeah

E Eleanor McKinley 11:42
And you cooked on the coal stove? What were your mom's chores? What did she do?

D Don Archer 11:48
She done everything, all the housework. And when she'd get through with the housework, she'd even come to field and work with us.

E Eleanor McKinley 11:58
Did she fix a big lunch for the people who are working? How many people would be working on your farm?

D Don Archer 12:01
Oh, yes. Well, just for the farm alone, there would be my dad, and Carl and I. And then when it would come harvest time, the farmers would all get together and come in and help you do your harvest like thrashing the wheat, filling silo with corn. And they all got together and just traded work. There was, no money exchanged hands. You just wanted to help them out.

E Eleanor McKinley 12:41
And what'd your mother serve all those people?

D Don Archer 12:44
They could fix up the most delicious meals that you'd ever think of

E Eleanor McKinley 12:50
Can you remember any of them, what you ate?

D Don Archer 12:54
Beans and potatoes. That was the main

E Eleanor McKinley 12:59
I bet you always had beans and potatoes.

D Don Archer 13:01
Always had beans and potatoes.

E Eleanor McKinley 13:03
What do you eat for breakfast? When you were growing up?

D Don Archer 13:08
We had a lot of sausage, bacon gravy. And my big thing was a big bowl of cornflakes

E Eleanor McKinley 13:21
Oh, was that Kellogg's cornflakes? Do you remember who who made those

D Don Archer 13:25
Post, at that time. And then, hell I still have my Kellogg's for breakfast every morning

E Eleanor McKinley 13:36
Did you get the milk from your own cows?

D Don Archer 13:38
Yeah.

E Eleanor McKinley 13:40
What else did you get that you that you use at home? From your farming.

D Don Archer 13:45
We raised pigs and Dad always butchered two pigs every year. And we'd generally butcher a calf. And we had chickens for eggs and chickens for meat. So

E Eleanor McKinley 14:04
You probably didn't have a freezer so how did you store that meat?

D Don Archer 14:08
We had a basement and mother would grind up a sausage and put it in a long sacks and then hang it from the ceiling down in the basement and keep as long as you want it.

E Eleanor McKinley 14:26
Is that right?

D Don Archer 14:28
And the meat from butchering the pigs, well they would cure it with brown sugar, and salt, things that way.

E Eleanor McKinley 14:39
So you didn't have a locker then? No, you just you just made it do. You preserved it then and put it in your basement.

D Don Archer 14:49
And then whenever you want some meat or anything just went down in the basement with a knife and then cut off what you wanted.

E Eleanor McKinley 14:56
What about canning did she do a lot of canning?

D Don Archer 14:58
She'd done a lot of canning. We always had a big garden and she canned everything that we couldn't eat a bread away.

E Eleanor McKinley 15:08
Like green beans,

D Don Archer 15:10
Green beans, corn. Anything that was cannable why she did it.

E Eleanor McKinley 15:17
Those were long hard days when she was canning I imagine. Over a hot stove


D Don Archer 15:24
Well, us kids all jumped in and helped with it. We, we all had our chores to do.


E Eleanor McKinley 15:32
What did you do for a chore?


D Don Archer 15:35
Well, my job when I come home from school was to chop wood and get in coal and carry water in putting the reservoir that was on the side of the coal stove. So we'd have hot water.


E Eleanor McKinley 15:48
Did you have a well?


D Don Archer 15:49


 Don Archer 15:49
Yeah.

 Eleanor McKinley 15:51
How did she iron, how did your mother iron?


 Don Archer 15:54
By setting the iron on the stove and heat up the iron and then with a little handle that would clip in.


 Eleanor McKinley 16:05
Oh, that seems like such a hard way to iron. Without scorching, I'd be the one to scorch everything.

 Don Archer 16:12
Sometimes she did. But that was the only way they had to doing it.


 Eleanor McKinley 16:17
Did they have? Did you change clothes everyday? Or did you wear the same thing to school for a week? Or how did you do that?


 Don Archer 16:25
Yeah, we would, they would generally take to town before school started. I know they would buy me two pair of corduroys. I would wear those to school. I'd wear one one week, and next week I'd wear the other one. But the minute I got home from school, I changed clothes into my own work clothes. And that's the way we had to get along.


 Eleanor McKinley 16:54
Do you? Did you wear those long stockings? Do you remember those?


 Don Archer 16:58
Oh, yes, I remember those.


 Eleanor McKinley 17:01
And you wore those? What color were yours? White or brown?


 Don Archer 17:05
Generally brown and black


 Eleanor McKinley 17:07
Brown and black. Did you wear leggings or? No? How do you keep your legs warm?


 Don Archer 17:13
We had to hide top over shoes. And course you always wore long underwear.


 Eleanor McKinley 17:22
Did you walk to school?

 Don Archer 17:24
Yes.

 Eleanor McKinley 17:25
How far was that?

 Don Archer 17:26
A mile and a half.

 Eleanor McKinley 17:28
A mile and a half.

 Don Archer 17:30
Now on real bad days. My dad would hitch up a team of horses in the front of the wagon. And he would take us to school.

E Eleanor McKinley 17:41
Did you pick up any other kids?

D Don Archer 17:42
By the time we got to school we had a wagonload

E Eleanor McKinley 17:47
Oh, that sounds like fun

D Don Archer 17:48
It was

E Eleanor McKinley 17:49
Yeah. Now when you get when your parents get their first car.

D Don Archer 17:52
Let's see. They had a 1917 Model T Ford. Let's see, they got that when we lived south of Longmont there so that must have been about 1920. Somewhere in there.

E Eleanor McKinley 18:20
That was an exciting time

D Don Archer 18:22
It was

E Eleanor McKinley 18:23
Tell me about that car?

D Don Archer 18:26

Well, I never I never got to drive it for a long time. Because I wasn't old enough but my dad done all the driving. And he drove it one speed down the road, around corners, into the garage. That's the way he drove

E

Eleanor McKinley 18:51

Did it, course he didn't have any driver's training, did he?

D

Don Archer 18:54

No

E

Eleanor McKinley 18:56

Did his dad show him how to drive or did he just get in and start?

D

Don Archer 18:59

Well, they didn't have cars back then they were the horse and buggy.

E

Eleanor McKinley 19:06

So he taught himself to drive?

D

Don Archer 19:07

Taught himself.

E

Eleanor McKinley 19:08

Do you remember what the cost of that car was?

D

Don Archer 19:11

No, I don't

E

Eleanor McKinley 19:12

Or the cost of gasoline in those days.

D Don Archer 19:15

Well, gasoline was awfully cheap. Of course I didn't. I don't remember because I wasn't buying gas. But later on dad and I went together and bought a 29 Chevrolet. I was getting a part of the crop to sell. So I want to get the money each year why. We'd pay for the car just once a year to make payments.

E Eleanor McKinley 19:54

Oh, you didn't have to pay monthly. You just paid once a year.

D Don Archer 19:57

Yeah.

E Eleanor McKinley 19:58

How much was the interest you know?

D Don Archer 20:00

Gosh, I don't remember, but it wasn't very much. Course that. I remember that 29 Chevrolet that we bought cost us \$925. Cause it was brand new

E Eleanor McKinley 20:14

What a thrill. Yeah. What color was it?

D Don Archer 20:17

It was dark green.

E Eleanor McKinley 20:20

What were the seats made out of?

D Don Archer 20:21

Oh, just a regular fabric.

E Eleanor McKinley 20:25
Fabric. Did you have a trunk in the car?

D Don Archer 20:27
No.

E Eleanor McKinley 20:28
No trunk?

D Don Archer 20:28
No.

E Eleanor McKinley 20:30
How many people would it seat?

D Don Archer 20:33
Was a two seated car. I guess it had a little space underneath the floorboard, where you could put stuff. But you could get six people in it really easy.

E Eleanor McKinley 20:46
Oh could you really? And the two seats they were they were bench seats then. Okay. Well did you all take any trips in that car as a family?

D Don Archer 20:58
Well, we dne an awful lot of trips up into the mountains on picnics and things like that.

E Eleanor McKinley 21:05
Did you go on a vacation as such when you were growing up?

D Don Archer 21:08
No. We didn't have what vacations were. We had family vacations.

no. we didn't know what vacations were. was too busy working.

E

Eleanor McKinley 21:15

I think that was pretty typical of everybody in that age, you just worked. You didn't know. You didn't know what it was to take two weeks off, go somewhere.

D

Don Archer 21:26

Never go to go to vacation.

E

Eleanor McKinley 21:34

Tell me some of the other stories. Some of the if you remember any funny stories about instance that happened in Broomfield or things that you recollect that you think ought to be kept as part of the history of Broomfield.

D

Don Archer 21:50

Let's see. I don't know of any real funny stories or anything like that.

E

Eleanor McKinley 22:04

You ever playing tricks on each other?

D

Don Archer 22:06

Oh, yeah. We always played tricks on somebody. We used to when he was on the farm over there. My dad and whether all us kids used to get in water fights.

E

Eleanor McKinley 22:18

What did you use? Did you use buckets?

D

Don Archer 22:20

Buckets or whatever we could get

E

Eleanor McKinley 22:22

And your mother and dad were out there?

- D** Don Archer 22:24
Oh, yes. We had, we had a lawn in the front of the house there. And we didn't have any sprinkling system or anything like that. We run water down the ditch and kind of irrigated the lawn because it was pretty good size. And every time we irrigated the lawn or that meant big water fight
- E** Eleanor McKinley 22:47
How often did you do that?
- D** Don Archer 22:48
Oh, once a week,
- E** Eleanor McKinley 22:49
once a week.
- D** Don Archer 22:51
Generally on Sunday morning, early. So dad would take his shovel, find the little puddle he could take his shovel and swing it.
- E** Eleanor McKinley 23:07
And he sounds like he had a great sense of humor.
- D** Don Archer 23:10
He was a wonderful dad.
- E** Eleanor McKinley 23:12
Tell me about him.
- D** Don Archer 23:14
Well, he he never said really too much. But what he did say, he meant what he said. And he saw to it that we all had clothes to wear something to eat. And in the wintertime, he would

saw to it that we all had clothes to wear something to eat. And in the wintertime, he would always build us a big sled and get all of us kids on it hooked a team of horses onto it and pull us all over the farm. And he was just awful good to me that he was good to all the kids.

E

Eleanor McKinley 23:59

Was he the disciplinarian?

D

Don Archer 24:01

Yeah.

E

Eleanor McKinley 24:02

Not your mother.

D

Don Archer 24:03

Well. She would discipline the kids. And then if it was too bad, well then she generally told dad about it. And then he took over.

E

Eleanor McKinley 24:14

What kind of discipline did he use?

D

Don Archer 24:18

He used to a razor strap. But not hard. Just enough to let you know that. He made what he said.

E

Eleanor McKinley 24:27

And what would he discipline you for? What would you might have done?

D

Don Archer 24:32

Well if we wouldn't get home from school on time if we'd play along the way or go to some other kids house, not get home and get our chores done. Because to him that was the main thing getting everything done. So you could all go to the table at the same time sit down and eat. Everybody had to be at the dinner table and he would punish for that. And if we throw a rock and break a window

E Eleanor McKinley 25:19
Did you ever do that?

D Don Archer 25:20
I did once. It wasn't intentional but But it happened. So I got punished

E Eleanor McKinley 25:34
Did you ever get punished for not doing your homework? Or was education important to your family?

D Don Archer 25:42
Oh, yes. My dad preached that to us kids, as long as I can remember. He'd say get yourself a good education. So you won't have to work like I have to

E Eleanor McKinley 25:57
What, what did he dream that you would be, that you would become?

D Don Archer 26:05
I don't know. He never did say what he wanted me to be, just wanted me to get an education.

E Eleanor McKinley 26:11
Didn't want you to be a farmer though.

D Don Archer 26:13
Well, I suppose I could have been anything that I took notion to. But

E Eleanor McKinley 26:25
But you were a farmer, weren't you?

D Don Archer 26:27
I was farmer for? Well, let's see until 1941.

E

Eleanor McKinley 26:36

Till the war, yeah. And then what happened?

D

Don Archer 26:39

Well, I, I tried to, I volunteered to go into service. But I only have one eye. And I had a heart murmur at that time. And they wouldn't take me. So I leased Conoco service station and run that. And I got it for \$1 a year.

E

Eleanor McKinley 27:09

How did you do that?

D

Don Archer 27:10

Well, the station had been run down so much that people just weren't going in there for anything. So I decided I was going to turn around make a little money. So I started doing grease jobs, wash jobs, polish jobs, anything that I could and then I got so I could, I would send out cards to people and I thought it was about time for him to get a grease job. So penny postcard. That would remind them in the here they'd come in get your car greased

E

Eleanor McKinley 27:52

Oh you are a great marketing person.

D

Don Archer 27:55

I had to to make make some money. So that was when my wife and I decided to start building this house. So we built this in 1948

E

Eleanor McKinley 28:13

Was gasoline was rationed then, wasn't it?

D

Don Archer 28:16

Yeah, it was for about, just about three years there that was rationed. We had different kinds of stamps, there was an A stamp, which you could get five gallons on. And then T stamps, that was for trucks where they could they could get up as much as 10 gallons.

E Eleanor McKinley 28:47
What could the A stamp can how many gallons?

D Don Archer 28:49
Five

E Eleanor McKinley 28:50
And how long was that supposed to last you?

D Don Archer 28:52
Well you'd get so many stamps to last you for a month

E Eleanor McKinley 28:56
Do you remember how many?

D Don Archer 28:58
Well, it wasn't very many. Seems like of course I was running the station. I got all kinds of stamps but

E Eleanor McKinley 29:12
do you think people cheated very much?

D Don Archer 29:14
I don't believe so. Everybody tried to be honest. There was some cheating going on. I even helped out some of them. That got into what they needed. Gas to finish what at whatever they had to do. And especially the service boys would come through because they didn't have stamps or anything and they wanted to get around and see their friends. So I've give them some stamps. All the farmers around they had what to call R stamps. And with those they could get all the gas that they wanted for their farm machinery, tractors and trucks and things that way. Well, instead of turning them back into the government, they would bring them in to me. I'd help people out.

E Eleanor McKinley 30:21
Well, that was awfully nice of you to do that.

D Don Archer 30:23
Got me in business.

E Eleanor McKinley 30:27
Well, I guess when you have gas ration, do you have your business isn't as great as before that? What Tell me about your social life when you were in high school, and how you met your wife and what her name is?

D Don Archer 30:42
Well, my social life. I had girlfriends when I went to high school. And I always went to school dances over there. But I met my wife. Isetta Waugh was her name at that time.

E Eleanor McKinley 30:52
How do you spell her last name?

D Don Archer 31:06
W A U G H. She had just moved to Broomfield from Denver. And they lived in the little house just up on the west side of Broomfield. And another boy and I were riding our horses one day and went up through Broomfield, I happened to see her. So that was it.

E Eleanor McKinley 31:34
Did you know that at first sight,

D Don Archer 31:37
I had a pretty good idea

E Eleanor McKinley 31:40
Was she younger than you were?

D Don Archer 31:41
She was two years younger.

E Eleanor McKinley 31:46
And what year did you get married? In 1934. So how old were you?

D Don Archer 31:52
I was 20. She was 18 but I was 20.

E Eleanor McKinley 31:57
So you'd been working for a while you've saved your money. And well,

D Don Archer 32:03
I was still on the farm. And Dad helped me out. And then I took over the station where we were kind of on our own and we had she worked at along with me.

E Eleanor McKinley 32:16
Did she work at the station?

D Don Archer 32:17
Yeah, she helped me at the station. And when I was building this house, she would come to the station around four o'clock, when business began to slow up. I would come down here and work. And then when she closed up, she'd close up the station around seven. She come down go right to work with me. So

E Eleanor McKinley 32:41
Sounds like you have a lot of companionship.

D Don Archer 32:43
Oh, we did.



E Eleanor McKinley 32:44
Did you have any children?

D Don Archer 32:46
Three

E Eleanor McKinley 32:46
Three. And what are their names?

D Don Archer 32:49
Oh, Donna is the oldest daughter. She's 62.

E Eleanor McKinley 32:56
And where does she live?

D Don Archer 32:57
She lives south. And West here just about a mile and a half. And then I have a son Roy. He's 56, will be 56 He lives in Aurora now but he's moving to Boulder first of the month.


E Eleanor McKinley 33:16
That's a lot closer.

D Don Archer 33:17
Yeah, And I have a son Larry. He lives over here on Sixth Avenue. He works for storage technology.


E Eleanor McKinley 33:29
Well, it's nice to have him so close.


D Don Archer 33:31
Yeah.

 Eleanor McKinley 33:31
How many grandchildren do you have?


 Don Archer 33:38
Let's see. 6, 7, I got 11.


 Eleanor McKinley 33:45
You probably have some great grandchildren.


 Don Archer 33:47
Yeah. I got three.


 Eleanor McKinley 33:53
That's wonderful.

 Don Archer 33:55
I got one great grandchild that I see every week.

 Eleanor McKinley 33:59
How do you have? How do you have that privilege?

 Don Archer 34:05
My daughter and my granddaughter come once a week and we go out to lunch and they bring this little great granddaughter them.

 Eleanor McKinley 34:16
Oh how wonderful. They're really special, aren't they. Those grandchildren. Yeah. What do you like to do with your grandchildren?



D Don Archer 34:24
Everything that I possibly can

E Eleanor McKinley 34:28
Well, you seem to be in good health so you must be able to do lots of things.

D Don Archer 34:31
Oh yeah. We were often play and tease each other get out on the floor.

E Eleanor McKinley 34:43
Let's go back to the early days of Broomfield, when you were first living here. What stores do you remember being here and factories.


D Don Archer 34:52
There were no factories. And there was a store that Ed Jones had. And he ran the post office and he had a little store had carried a few groceries and few clothes, things like that. And he's the one that had, he ran a kind of a hotel or two had rooms upstairs that he rented out. And he had pool tables up there. And that's where they carried on some of their gambling. And he would let us kids go up and play pool everyone's know. But never around any gambling he'd run us out. And then across the tracks, there was a grocery store. Red and White grocery store.


E Eleanor McKinley 35:54
And that's where Leyland'sss rental place.


D Don Archer 35:57
Yeah. And then across the road from there was a garage. Some people the name of Shaw that they repaired cars, old tires, and just generally work on automobiles. And then on just a little bit farther on the other side of the road was a pool hall, pool hall and a barber shop. And at that time, you could get a haircut for a quarter.


E Eleanor McKinley 36:34
Could you play pool and don't get your hair cut off the same time?


D Don Archer 36:37


 Don Archer 36:37
Yeah.


 Eleanor McKinley 36:38
Mostly men in there.


 Don Archer 36:40
Oh, yeah. Yeah.

 Eleanor McKinley 36:41
All men?

 Don Archer 36:42
All men.

 Eleanor McKinley 36:44
Were they charged to play pool?

 Don Archer 36:47
I don't know. He wouldn't let any of us kids play. I imagine was probably about 50 cents for them to play a game. Then of course there was the Grange Hall. And then the bank. Sitting next to the Grange hall there. And then next to that's where Mr. Huddart started his Lumberyard on the other side of where it is now. And then up the road just the little ways was a blacksmith shop, fellow by the name of Bristol run that. He was a very religious person. You could go there anytime of the day and be singing some religious songs just as loud as he could sing. He was a good blacksmith. Sharpen plow shears for us? Put shoes on horses, anything you want done.

 Eleanor McKinley 37:57
Now the granary was here then too, wasn't it?

 Don Archer 37:59
Oh yeah, there's this big one here. And one across.



38:04

[skip in audio]



Don Archer 38:05

Became



Eleanor McKinley 38:07

Now did you sell your grain to them?



Don Archer 38:09

Yeah. Wheat, stuff like that we sold to the big metal building. And then we raised barley. And it went to the other one on the other side.



Eleanor McKinley 38:28

Was that Were you here when the cheese factory was here?



Don Archer 38:32

Cheese? No. Never, never heard of a cheese factory?



Eleanor McKinley 38:35

Well there was in the late 1800s. I think I don't know how long it lasted. That there was a cheese factory at that point.



Don Archer 38:44

But we had a pickle factory here.



Eleanor McKinley 38:45

Oh we had a pickle factory. Did women work in the pickle factory?



Don Archer 38:53

It was mostly all of us kids that worked there.

E

Eleanor McKinley 38:56

What did you do?

D

Don Archer 38:57

Sold pickles. They would, farmers would raise pickles. About two, farmer would raise about two acres. That's all we can take care of, course they, they grew so fast. And we take our pickles and haul him in and pile them up on the platform here at the pickle factory. Was just right across the railroad tracks where this big building is. And then in the evening all of us kids'd go up and had a long conveyor. You'd dumped the pickles on there as it come down and conveyor. Each kid has a certain size pickled look for, we'd throw them first one way and then the other you know. It'd be oh, 10, 12 of us kids up their about every night getting 15 cents an hour.

E

Eleanor McKinley 39:53

How old were you?

D

Don Archer 39:55

Well, let's see. I was still in high school. So I was probably around 15, 16, in there.

E

Eleanor McKinley 40:05

And did you like doing that?

D

Don Archer 40:07

Oh yeah. Anything where I could make money

E

Eleanor McKinley 40:11

What other things did you do to make money?

D

Don Archer 40:15

Well, I used to go to farm sales and buy little pigs, I could get them real cheap. And raise them up to where they weighed Oh 70 or 80 pounds. That was the best way to sell them. And I'd sell them make money on them. And I do the same with with calves. I can buy the bull calves when

they were a couple of days old for about \$1 Well you can keep them for two or three months and sell them for about 15

E

Eleanor McKinley 41:00

Good profit

D

Don Archer 41:03

Course you had a lot of work to do feeding them everything.

E

Eleanor McKinley 41:07

But you had the grain right there to farm. So that was an extra an extra expense.

D

Don Archer 41:12

And I worked everywhere that I possibly could. When I wasn't busy on the form

E

Eleanor McKinley 41:25

Where else did you work besides the Conoco station? Did you have another job after that? Or did you keep that for many years?

D

Don Archer 41:33

I was there for about let's see about seven years. Then I went into carpenter work. I always liked that. And I went into Denver and worked for K.C. Ensor. He's the man that built the first house

E

Eleanor McKinley 41:56

In what we know is Broomfield Heights.

D

Don Archer 42:04

I would get to work early when I worked down there. And I'd round get to nails, load them into a pickup and drive around the project. Scattered the nails where they are they're supposed to go. So's all men could go to work. They will not stand around wait. Well Ensor thought that was doing pretty good. So he decided if I was going to do stuff like that, might just as well get a hammer and go to work myself. So he paid my first union dues for me, everything to join the

union and gave me all the extra work that he possibly could. So that was where I learned to carpenter work. So then I came back. I worked for him for a little over a year, I guess. And thought I knew everything but found out I didn't. So I started building some houses was this was the first one. I didn't know beans about building when I did this one then I built my folk's house, Carl helped me.

E

Eleanor McKinley 43:31

Now, they were next door, weren't they? Were they next door to this house?

D

Don Archer 43:35

No. They were just across the tracks. Right. close to where Carl's place.

E

Eleanor McKinley 43:42

Is the house still there?

D

Don Archer 43:43

Yeah. Yeah, built that first. Carl wanted his built back there. He worked with me and helped. And after we get that done why. People come around seeing what kind of work was doing and started wanting us to work for them. So we got a couple more fellas to work with us. We had our own crew. We just started building whatever we could get. We built several houses around here. And we could do the whole thing. Carl done plumbing. We all done carpenter work. Carl was the plumber. I was the electrician and the other two fellas that we had was they do whatever we wanted.

E

Eleanor McKinley 44:45

Was this on the job training. You just taught yourself what to do so

D

Don Archer 44:50

Just taught ourselves that. Course I learned a lot when I worked for Ensor

E

Eleanor McKinley 44:57

Did you help build some of the first houses in Broomfield?

D

Don Archer 45:00

No no they. I probably done some work on some of them. But those guys they were so big they could buy their material so much cheaper than I could. So I didn't even try to venture into that.

E

Eleanor McKinley 45:24

What was Mr. Ensor like?

D

Don Archer 45:26

He was a nice guy. He wanted you to work. But if you worked he really treated you alright.

E

Eleanor McKinley 45:34

Why don't you think about Broomfield Heights when it was being developed?

D

Don Archer 45:39

Well, first I didn't like it.

E

Eleanor McKinley 45:41

I don't blame you

D

Don Archer 45:46

They were changing everything for us. We had our little church up here where the big giraffe stands

E

Eleanor McKinley 45:57

at Methodist Church

D

Don Archer 46:01

Where everybody went to church and they built a new one over there which was fine but they done away with our church up here that we all liked so much so we tried going to church over there. I don't know there seemed to be little cliques one here and here and around, you know. Sundays we'd go to church and where we've been going for a long time. Minister say you're new here, I said no, I've been coming here for a year.



46:51

You