

Interviewer 0:07

This is an interview with Ken Hoyle made April 7 1997 in Broomfield, Colorado at his home. Ken, would you like to tell me a little bit about your parents where they were born and where in Colorado they came to live.

Ken Hoyle 0:26

My father was born in Arcola, Illinois, came to Euston Nebraska. He was three years old. Mother was born at Smith Center, Kansas. Her family moved to Indian Territory shortly after the Cherokee Run and homesteaded in that area. Father went down there and my parents were married in Oklahoma and my three sisters and I were all born in Oklahoma. We came to Colorado when I was two years old.

Interviewer 1:10

And so you've lived in Colorado now for how many years?

Ken Hoyle 1:16

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Interviewer 1:18

That's pretty good. Pretty good record. We know you mainly as the the president of the Broomfield bank. Can you tell us a little bit about how you came to take that position and what you were doing before you came to Broomfield?

Ken Hoyle 1:37

Immediately before it came to the field, I was working in a bank in southeastern Colorado. And that's kind of a [Walts] it was a family owned bank. And there were some changes made that caused me to look for another place. That was about the time that the people who started the bank here were looking for someone to run the bank

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Who would you say was most influential in getting you to come to Broomfield?

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Roger Knight Jr. also called bud Knight. He was the controlling stockholder the bank for many years.

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Okay, and then I it's my understanding that there were several other gentlemen who were also involved, both in the bank and in the original purchase of the land that became Broomfield heights.

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Oh, yes. The founders of the bank were basically the same people who had the foresight to buy the old Zang Ranch and start building what was called Broomfield Heights. They were some of the giants of the business world in Denver.

Interviewer 3:04

Can you tell me some of their names?

Ken Hoyle 3:07

Yes. Included. Mr. Bal Swan. Mr. Axel Nielsen. Mr. C.A. Norgren. Mr. Casey Ensor. Mr. Joe [You'll] I believe there is another or two but at the moment I can't say that.

Interviewer 3:40

That's fine. Those are names that we all remember here in Broomfield for certain. When you took your job as the president of the bank, in Broomfield, what did you see as your tasks?

Ken Hoyle 4:01

Probably my. My first task was to learn more about how an urban bank operated my background had all been in country banking. And at that time, prior to the computer age, they were operated quite differently from an urban bank. So I had some learning to do. And of course, I had to get forms printed by equipment. Some of you may remember the old red safe that was our mark for many years. That was the first piece of equipment purchase. We couldn't hide it. So we featured it made it a logo. And it remained a logo until he moved the building where Norwest bank is at current time.

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Do you remember what year it was when the city Incorporated?

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I believe it was 1962. 61 or 2.

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And how was that done, do you know? Was it by petition or did somebody what? Somebody in the city government suggests that this ought to be done?

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I'm not sure I can answer that. There was a ballot.

Interviewer 10:40

There was a ballot.

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You may be right I may be getting those two issues confused. Tell me a little bit about what the town was like when you first were in business there.

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When you were first in business there, one of the things that you started to do was to begin to build trade for the bank and there were some special techniques that you used and as I recall, you told me about a Merchants Association or some such. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Ken Hoyle 12:57

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Who were some of the people that you worked with then. In that Association, are they still around?

Ken Hoyle 14:30
Oh, some of them are. [Bill and Carrie] Greenwald, David James, Helen Herman, now deceased, had this shop. [Alan Ever] drugstore? I mentioned Joe and Johnny DiCiero and their place of business butcher shop. And I'm sure some that I've forgotten and can't recall at the moment

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was Mr. VanBuskirk in business here then

Ken Hoyle 15:16
Oh yes, believe it or not, in the shopping center itself.

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But was he part of the merchants group? Do you remember?

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and they were both from Nebraska as I remember. They were both Nebraska natives.

Ken Hoyle 16:35

They were, and they had been in business in Nebraska before they came here. In business together.

Interviewer 16:44

I remember a group of fellows who used to get together periodically and they had a seems to me it was a bus. And they called themselves the Broomfield Boosters, used to ride around town and try and get people excited about sales and what was going on in it. And I recall that they later became a Chamber of Commerce for the city of Broomfield, do you remember anything about those early days at the Chamber of Commerce?

Ken Hoyle 17:17

It seems to me that we started Chamber of Commerce at least four or five times. If my memory serves me correctly. The first time it was just called Businessman's Club and we met at what is now Yogi's because it was the only place in town where you could have a luncheon.

Interviewer 17:46

How many of you would you think there were in that one those first? Teams,

Ken Hoyle 17:51

Oh, they were probably not to exceed 40? Maybe not more than 30.

Interviewer 17:58

But you had a good time? I'll bet.

Ken Hoyle 18:00

Oh, yes, we had a lot of these people who were actively there. And we started the course now Broomfield days or the Chamber of Commerce. And it took over on that and it was enormous Broomfield boon it was on the fourth of July, cleaned out nearly every year.

Interviewer 18:31

It's become quite a tradition in the city of Broomfield and it's certainly grown over the years. Was there a church in Broomfield at that time?

Ken Hoyle 18:46

Yes. Well, some of them were under construction, perhaps. The old Methodist Church was still the church. It's the building over in Old Broomfield where it became a taxidermy shop and [unclear] that was a Methodist Church for this area for many years. It was still being used as a church at that time. I do not remember who started the second one, but it seemed like there was quite a number of churches started in a relatively short time.

Interviewer 19:34

You've been active in the United Church for a good many years. Do you remember about how that group started? Or were you part of it when it began?

Ken Hoyle 19:46

We were not charter members. Our oldest son had had a two or three year perfect attendance record in Sunday School came from the first weekend at felons and found he wanted to go to Sunday school. We only knew one other couple in town. My wife called them and asked where they went to church. It was the United, was United Church. And so she took the boy to Sunday school. And that's how we got started with that church. The church had a parsonage on the north side of Midway, and services were held in the basement of the parsonage. So that's where we went to church.

Interviewer 20:46

Where did where did Robert go to Sunday school?

Ken Hoyle 20:50

Somewhere there earlier at an earlier hour

Interviewer 20:56

And then all of your kids eventually went to that. church school?

Ken Hoyle 21:01

Yes,

Interviewer 21:01

through that church school program. But what do you do? Do you remember any other church buildings being built at that time?

Ken Hoyle 21:13

Not right at that time, and I'm sure there were some but I don't rememeber them. It was a short time or seemed like a short time until the Methodists began on the new church, growing so rapidly.

Interviewer 21:39

I am as I had a community cookbook once and I, it seems to me that they listed Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and 120th as being the second one to be built, actual building to be built and that building was evidently built before the United Church actually built a building. As a place of worship,

Ken Hoyle 22:07

I would have thought there might be several built before the United Church really built.

Interviewer 22:13

Well, your memory I'm sure is better than mine

Ken Hoyle 22:16

there was a church, and I cannot recall the name of it. But it was up the hill in what we called over the hill. Newcomers and I no longer can tell you what denomination it was or where they moved to because building up there was used as a church for a number of years. I think Presbyterian and Baptist Churches were underway. Not too long after the sound.

Interviewer 23:00

Broomfield has always seemed to be a a community of worshipers that that's always had a strong church identification. Do you think that that influence spilled over into the schools when the schools began to be started or have you ever thought much about that?

Ken Hoyle 23:24

I really had not so

Interviewer 23:28

but there was not a school there then either was there.

Ken Hoyle 23:33

There were what were called Cottage schools. Some of them were along that block where the First Baptist church is now and there many have been some others around the town. What they were, were buildings that the contractors including Mr. Ensor because I know he was active in it. They built them these houses but they petitioned so that they might be used as schools and simply donated the use of them to the city and built [unclear] something about it. Anyone of high school age had to go out of town, mostly to Lafayette.

Interviewer 24:18

I see what was the first school building built in Broomfield, do you know

Ken Hoyle 24:29

I believe Emerald, but, again, I'm not sure. It's the first one I remember

Interviewer 24:40

can you remember or tell me a little bit about how the town grew and what people were most prominent in city government and that sort of thing as a group.

Ken Hoyle 25:03

Well, as to how the town grew. Houses are being built constantly and can be sold constantly. So it wasn't too long until the first filing was filled and construction began north of Midway. The original covenants were quite strict and prevented. Construction of some of the [unclear] in Broomfield now. So they were built in the county and later annexed into the town. That of course brought in a large number of houses at one time when the annexation took place.

Interviewer 25:57

As the years been, have gone by, it seems to me that annexation has been pretty important in the city's history. Do you remember any particular places that are other communities, surrounding communities, that made a difference to the development of Broomfield?

Ken Hoyle 26:16

In what respect?

Interviewer 26:18

Well, I seem to remember that sometime along in the 60s or middle 70s, that there was sort of a effort by the city of Broomfield, or city of Westminster, excuse me, to surround the city of Broomfield. Are you, were you part of that opposition to that effort?

Ken Hoyle 26:45

I don't know that there was any well developed opposition to values any group that was particularly fighting Yes, we were certainly opposed to it. That came about basically because of the ambition of one man who was that time city manager of Westminster and had the ambition to build a reputation, so he annexed land to Westminster, We thought should never have been any too far from [unclear]. One area in that catagory was a mile wide strip that ran west to Standley Lake was cutting Arvada off from coming any further north and stuff

Interviewer 28:03

you have always been active in your community. Can you tell me a little bit about some of the organizations that you were a part of

Ken Hoyle 28:18

Well, as I said before we had this little businessman's deal. The first organization that I was a part of was a junior Chamber of Commerce, since I was already passed the age of being a junior, they were kind enough to take me in and they gave me the title of exhausted rooster. I was also a charter member the Masonic Order. I was in class number 184 I'm sure there were other special purpose things that came along and I know everybody jumped in and help us everything, It would be hard for me to go back and list them. One that comes to mind is Bal Swan School began as a lovely Broomfield school for retarded children. A very small group of people headed by Mrs. Helen Gibson [unclear]. That was kind of blew up because there was a

little two year old handicapped child over in Adams County who wanted in and we, we being board members, I was on the board at the time, took the child in and the lady who held the first springs in Boulder County was quite offended said that she would cut off funds we went across that line. We told her we didn't think the county line meant much to that child and so we took the child and probably one of the best moves we made because the public found out about it and we got public support from it. I don't need to tell you about the wonderful organization it's become.

Interviewer 30:53

That's true. Tell me a little bit about your predictions perhaps for the future of the city. There's been a good bit of growth and there is not always agreement on how and where the city should grow and what the city fathers ought to be doing. How do you feel about what's happening now and what might happen in the future?

Ken Hoyle 31:18

Well, I think that Broomfield has annexed the north and east where they have a really good area left to be developed. As far as going any other direction's concerned they're pretty well cut off. With Westminster strip on the south, Louisville, Superior on the West, Lafayette of course on the northwest. Future growth of necessity will be east and north. I think there's enough land to handle any needed annexation for some time. And needed development for some time

Interviewer 32:11

I thank you for your time. Mr. Hoyle. I've enjoyed talking with you. [unclear]

I apologize for the quality of this tape. Mr. Hoyle is using an oxygen tank. He has terminal lung cancer and is not well. On the 17th of April in Boulder, Colorado. He is to be presented with an outstanding business persons award for Boulder County. This is quite an award and the community of Broomfield is surely proud of him as one of its original residents. We do thank him for his sharing of the some of the historical memories that he could call up today. Thank you

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

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It's become quite a tradition in the city of Broomfield and it's certainly grown over the years. Was there a church in Broomfield at that time?

Ken Hoyle 18:46

Yes. Well, some of them were under construction, perhaps. The old Methodist Church was still the church. It's the building over in Old Broomfield where it became a taxidermy shop and [unclear] that was a Methodist Church for this area for many years. It was still being used as a church at that time. I do not remember who started the second one, but it seemed like there was quite a number of churches started in a relatively short time.

Interviewer 19:34

You've been active in the United Church for a good many years. Do you remember about how that group started? Or were you part of it when it began?

Ken Hoyle 19:46

We were not charter members. Our oldest son had had a two or three year perfect attendance record in Sunday School came from the first weekend at felons and found he wanted to go to Sunday school. We only knew one other couple in town. My wife called them and asked where they went to church. It was the United, was United Church. And so she took the boy to Sunday school. And that's how we got started with that church. The church had a parsonage on the north side of Midway, and services were held in the basement of the parsonage. So that's where we went to church.

Interviewer 20:46

Where did where did Robert go to Sunday school?

Ken Hoyle 20:50

Somewhere there earlier at an earlier hour

Interviewer 20:56

And then all of your kids eventually went to that. church school?

Ken Hoyle 21:01

Yes,

Interviewer 21:01

through that church school program. But what do you do? Do you remember any other church buildings being built at that time?

Ken Hoyle 21:13

Not right at that time, and I'm sure there were some but I don't rememeber them. It was a short time or seemed like a short time until the Methodists began on the new church, growing so rapidly.

Interviewer 21:39

I am as I had a community cookbook once and I, it seems to me that they listed Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and 120th as being the second one to be built, actual building to be built and that building was evidently built before the United Church actually built a building. As a place of worship,

Ken Hoyle 22:07

I would have thought there might be several built before the United Church really built.

Interviewer 22:13

Well, your memory I'm sure is better than mine

Ken Hoyle 22:16

there was a church, and I cannot recall the name of it. But it was up the hill in what we called over the hill. Newcomers and I no longer can tell you what denomination it was or where they

moved to because building up there was used as a church for a number of years. I think Presbyterian and Baptist Churches were underway. Not too long after the sound.

Interviewer 23:00

Broomfield has always seemed to be a a community of worshipers that that's always had a strong church identification. Do you think that that influence spilled over into the schools when the schools began to be started or have you ever thought much about that?

Ken Hoyle 23:24

I really had not so

Interviewer 23:28

but there was not a school there then either was there.

Ken Hoyle 23:33

There were what were called Cottage schools. Some of them were along that block where the First Baptist church is now and there many have been some others around the town. What they were, were buildings that the contractors including Mr. Ensor because I know he was active in it. They built them these houses but they petitioned so that they might be used as schools and simply donated the use of them to the city and built [unclear] something about it. Anyone of high school age had to go out of town, mostly to Lafayette.

Interviewer 24:18

I see what was the first school building built in Broomfield, do you know

Ken Hoyle 24:29

I believe Emerald, but, again, I'm not sure. It's the first one I remember

Interviewer 24:40

can you remember or tell me a little bit about how the town grew and what people were most prominent in city government and that sort of thing as a group.

Ken Hoyle 25:03

Well, as to how the town grew. Houses are being built constantly and can be sold constantly. So it wasn't too long until the first filing was filled and construction began north of Midway. The original covenants were quite strict and prevented. Construction of some of the [unclear] in Broomfield now. So they were built in the county and later annexed into the town. That of course brought in a large number of houses at one time when the annexation took place.

Interviewer 25:57

As the years been, have gone by, it seems to me that annexation has been pretty important in the city's history. Do you remember any particular places that are other communities, surrounding communities, that made a difference to the development of Broomfield?

Ken Hoyle 26:16
In what respect?

Interviewer 26:18

Well, I seem to remember that sometime along in the 60s or middle 70s, that there was sort of a effort by the city of Broomfield, or city of Westminster, excuse me, to surround the city of Broomfield. Are you, were you part of that opposition to that effort?

Ken Hoyle 26:45

I don't know that there was any well developed opposition to values any group that was particularly fighting Yes, we were certainly opposed to it. That came about basically because of the ambition of one man who was that time city manager of Westminster and had the ambition to build a reputation, so he annexed land to Westminster, We thought should never have been any too far from [unclear]. One area in that catagory was a mile wide strip that ran west to Standley Lake was cutting Arvada off from coming any further north and stuff

Interviewer 28:03

you have always been active in your community. Can you tell me a little bit about some of the organizations that you were a part of

Ken Hoyle 28:18

Well, as I said before we had this little businessman's deal. The first organization that I was a part of was a junior Chamber of Commerce, since I was already passed the age of being a junior, they were kind enough to take me in and they gave me the title of exhausted rooster. I was also a charter member the Masonic Order. I was in class number 184 I'm sure there were other special purpose things that came along and I know everybody jumped in and help us everything, It would be hard for me to go back and list them. One that comes to mind is Bal Swan School began as a lovely Broomfield school for retarded children. A very small group of people headed by Mrs. Helen Gibson [unclear]. That was kind of blew up because there was a little two year old handicapped child over in Adams County who wanted in and we, we being board members, I was on the board at the time, took the child in and the lady who held the first springs in Boulder County was quite offended said that she would cut off funds we went across that line. We told her we didn't think the county line meant much to that child and so we took the child and probably one of the best moves we made because the public found out about it and we got public support from it. I don't need to tell you about the wonderful organization it's become.

Interviewer 30:53

That's true. Tell me a little bit about your predictions perhaps for the future of the city. There's been a good bit of growth and there is not always agreement on how and where the city should grow and what the city fathers ought to be doing. How do you feel about what's happening now and what might happen in the future?

Ken Hoyle 31:18

Well, I think that Broomfield has annexed the north and east where they have a really good area left to be developed. As far as going any other direction's concerned they're pretty well cut off. With Westminster strip on the south, Louisville, Superior on the West, Lafayette of course on the northwest. Future growth of necessity will be east and north. I think there's enough land to handle any needed annexation for some time. And needed development for some time

Interviewer 32:11

I thank you for your time. Mr. Hoyle. I've enjoyed talking with you. [unclear]

I apologize for the quality of this tape. Mr. Hoyle is using an oxygen tank. He has terminal lung cancer and is not well. On the 17th of April in Boulder, Colorado. He is to be presented with an outstanding business persons award for Boulder County. This is quite an award and the community of Broomfield is surely proud of him as one of its original residents. We do thank him for his sharing of the some of the historical memories that he could call up today. Thank you

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