

# Karen McGuire oral history int...lison (2023-11-01 13\_07 GMT-6)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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00:02 David Allison

All right.

00:04 David Allison

Thank you so much, Karen, for joining me today. Really appreciate it. And we're going to do a short oral history here. Really appreciate your time. And yeah, I'd really love for you to start just by sharing your name and just a little bit more about yourself.

00:21 Karen Mc Guire

Okay. I'm Karen McGuire. We moved here in 1967 and my husband was an aircraft mechanic. And so we moved here then with our daughter, and I was a housewife at that time, basically housewifing. I was interested in history and my husband came from a railroad family. And he got to know the agent over the depot and I was just interested in the history of Broomfield. Once we got settled, I began to see the old buildings and things. So I realized it wasn't just a suburb, which is what everybody thought, and I thought, you know, maybe I ought to write a book or write a pamphlet or something for my daughter's friends, to just kind of acquaint them with the history here. So, I started kind of snooping around and in the meantime, Wayne was talking to Herb Rutledge, who was the agent at that time at the depot. And the Depot, I think, was still, must have still been, operating.

01:37 David Allison

Okay.

01:38 Karen McGuire

I don't know exactly when they closed it. But I think it was still operating because Herb was there. But we had heard that it was going to be shut down and torn down. And so anyway, in the meantime, it came to be about '76, the bicentennial year, and the Jaycees had been meeting in the depot. And they got the word that it was going to be torn down. So they decided to make it their project to move the building.

02:19 David Allison

Right.

02:20 Karen McGuire

And they got the city to handle the expenses because of course, it was a huge expense to do something like that. And so that's how that all happened. I think they bought it for \$1, from what I was told.

02:36 David Allison

From the railroad, yeah.

02:39 Karen McGuire

Yeah, on the condition that they would move it out of there. And so, I don't know if that's what you want me to talk about? There is not that much interesting about me.

02:49 David Allison

No, thank you. No, that's a great start. And I was just thinking, too, do you remember, did the Rutledges live at the depot at the time?

02:57 Karen McGuire

No, no.

02:58 David Allison

They weren't living in that part of the building?

02:59 Karen McGuire

I think I heard only one family really live there.

03:03 David Allison

Okay.

02:59 Karen McGuire

I don't know if that's true.

03:03 David Allison

Interesting.

03:05 Karen McGuire

I didn't know much about the agents. Only that one man died there, died in the Depot.

03:15 David Allison

Yeah.

03:16 Karen McGuire

Vaughan, was it?

03:18 David Allison

Vaughan, Richard Vaughan, I think, yeah.

03:21 Karen McGuire

Yeah, there were I think there were two Vaughans, I think the Richard Vaughans are the ones that lived in there.

03:27 David Allison

Okay.

03:29 Karen McGuire

Not sure if that's right. Might have been the other one that died there. I want to say Carl or .....

03:35 David Allison

Clarence.

03:36 Karen McGuire

Clarence, I think that might be it. Yeah.

03:35 Karen McGuire

But anyway, then about the same time, the Jaycees were getting all this arranged to have the Depot moved, the Historical Society was formed. And Laura Spitler was the president of that; she is the one that wrote (the gem of the mountain valley book)??

03:58 David Allison

Yes, yes. Good.

04:00 Karen McGuire

And so, she was president then. And so I heard about that. And so I, you know, I went over to one of the meetings and, dumb me, I left early, and they appointed me Secretary (laughter),

04:14 Karen McGuire

I should have known better.

04:17 Karen McGuire

But anyway, so in one way or another, I, you know, continued to be involved with that, and my husband as well. And so along the way, it was decided, you know, of course, a museum would be put in there and, and the Historical Society was going to do that. So we were all just kind of, you know, fumbling around not knowing what we were doing but starting to clean up. The City took care of the expenses on the outside; they painted and repaired and whatever. The chimneys were taken off when they moved the building, because they were afraid they would fall. As I recall, they saved the bricks and rebuilt them.

05:01 David Allison

Yeah. Interesting.

05:02 Karen McGuire

And it was funny, when they moved the building, you know where it was? Right? You know where the Depot was at the time, originally?

05:13 David Allison

Yeah

05:14 Karen McGuire

Well, they had to go just a little bit down 120th, and then turn left to get on 287. But to do that, they had to go under some wires. And so here's these guys out there with these big long poles, pushing the wires up. (Laughter). My husband and I were on our mopeds following because we wanted to see this whole thing. So we followed along as they went on 287. And, you know, and then started north. And it was fascinating to watch that; we were terrified that the safe was still in the building. It was too heavy to take out. Everybody was afraid to try to, you know, do anything. This was, you know, this was not like now, there was not a big budget to do all of this. It was just kind of everybody doing the best they could.

06:04 David Allison

Yeah.

06:05 Karen McGuire

And so we were afraid that the safe was going to fall through the floor

06:04 David Allison

Oh my goodness

06:05 Karen McGuire

....because that flooring, I don't know how it is in the office or if it's been changed, but it was kind of rickety.

06:18 David Allison

Yeah.

06:19 Karen McGuire

And we were afraid it was going to end up on the highway.

06:22 Karen McGuire

But it made it to the site. And then the City, of course, went ahead, they had already prepared a foundation and it was put in place. And then they proceeded to take care of the outside. And there was no budget for this museum. We were not part of the city at all. It was all volunteers, but we had backup from the City like you can't believe. I mean, they were right there, anything we needed. Paul Derda had just been hired as the park director and he was wonderful. By the way, if you need to check on me, talk

to Paul. I've known him a long time and worked with him. And, George DiCiero, the city manager. They were right behind us on everything; anything we needed that we couldn't handle, they stepped in and helped us with that. And the guys, you know, the guys on the maintenance crews and all that.

07:26 Karen McGuire

But then in the meantime, we were inside trying to clean things up and try to get it ready for something. And again, it was just, you know, it was just all these volunteers and all of us just doing the best we could. And one of the women was dating a guy who was, I don't know, if he was some kind of military, Army, think what it was. But there was something here in the Denver area. And he got us some paint....

08:06 David Allison

Oh, okay

08:07 Karen McGuire

....because we didn't have any money. I don't know if he stole it or what, but he got it. And we just took it, you know. And so we started painting on the inside. And there was something, I don't know what was on the walls. I don't know much about that. But you would roll paint on and it would peel the backing off. I don't know what that was all about. We had quite a time with that. But we finally got the inside painted.

08:37 Karen McGuire

And then in the living room, the Jaycees, as I said, had used it as their meeting place. But one year for a fundraiser, they sold honey, and they stored the leftovers in that living room.

08:51 David Allison

Oh yeah.

08:52 Karen McGuire

Well, it leaked. It leaked all over and so there was this sticky mess. And so it had dried and we were down on our hands and knees for, I think, a couple of months trying to carefully scrape that off. You've seen that linoleum that looks like carpet?

09:11 David Allison

Yeah.

09:12 Karen McGuire

Well, so we were scraping that off carefully to try to not ruin it. And let's see, the City put a bathroom in and that room that's in there now as a bathroom, was a pantry.

09:28 David Allison

Yes, off the kitchen.

09:30 Karen McGuire

Yeah, off the kitchen.

09:33 David Allison

And did the basement come in about that time too?

09:36 Karen McGuire

Well, the basement was there because of the foundation. So the basement was there and we had no use of that. The Jaycees continued to meet down there. And so we were strictly upstairs and we stored whatever we got into the collection upstairs. And you know, tried to start making exhibits downstairs. And I think the first thing we got in were some papers and they had to do with Louisville, the Louisville Depot, for some reason. I may be remembering that wrong, but it had to do with Louisville. And for some reason someone in town had those. I don't know why. And they heard that we were there. So they brought them over. So we started cataloging those. And I began to think, you know, I don't know if we know what we're doing here. I'm kind of skipping.

10:38 Karen McGuire

But anyway, with the Historical Society, we all did different things and, and did fundraisers and that kind of thing, selling fruitcake and what have you. And somewhere along the way, I ended up as the director.

10:56 Karen McGuire

But anyway, then back back to getting those papers. I began to realize that this needed to be an official system of cataloging and I didn't know how to do that. So, I called the State Museum and told them what was going on and they said, "Well, come on down and we'll show you". So this was thrilling. I mean, man, we went down there, we had such...oh, it was great. They took us in the back, we could see everything and see their storage like this.

11:33 David Allison

Right. Right.

11:34 Karen McGuire

And it was wonderful. Yeah, but anyway, they piled this up with books and taught us a lot of stuff. And we met with,... there were a lot of little museums cropping up along the Front Range. And we, we kind of met with those; it was some kind of group and I've forgotten what it was called. But anyway, we met with those and, you know, again, trying to learn what we were doing. And so we started getting things in slowly, just you know, this and that kind of stuff, and learning how to handle it. And then we realized that we needed some way to display them, because we didn't, didn't have anything. We had heard that the Boulder Museum had closed down, because of exactly what I was afraid of. Because different people had run it over the years and created a new system every time they ran it; and, they lost track of what they had and where, were because of all that.

12:37 Karen McGuire

And so anyway, they were closed down and they were selling off some stuff. So we went up and bought showcases, which I think they've ended up over in the military museum, haven't they?

12:51 David Allison

That's correct.

12:53 Karen McGuire

That's what I heard.

12:55:David Allison

And they're still as beautiful.....

12:53 Karen McGuire

.....as they were back then. . We worked hard on those. We refinished them.

12:59:David Allison

Wow. Did you?

13:00 Karen McGuire

We did. Yeah, because they were a wreck, and so we refinished them. They had all the glass, that was what we were concerned about. And so we refinished those, and, you know, just this and that all through the building, doing that kind of thing. And in the meantime, getting things in gradually and trying to do oral histories, because the old timers like Viola Crooks (??), and those folks were elderly, and we were concerned about that.

13:33:David Allison

And when you're referring to the old timers, those would have been folks who either had ranches or farms near Broomfield or part of the old Broomfield part down by where the Depot had been?

13:46 Karen McGuire

Right. Yeah, and up here, of course, this land was leased up here, it was farming land Everything north of 120th was leased land. And so there were farmers from there, but you know, that would have been Cozi Secks (??), Jessie Cozy Secks (??) worked with us. And Viola Crooks, she was born here.

14:11 David Allison

Yes.

14:12 Karen McGuire

And, of course, Mr. Huddard (??) and the Brunners and all that kind of thing. I think I told you before about Mrs. Brunner.... I was so thrilled she....the Brunners are very stern people. And I was terrified of her, (laughter) but I knew that I really needed to get some information from them. So I asked her if she would do that. And she said, "Well, what I'll do is, we'll drive around Broomfield and I'll show you where everything was" And so she invited me to her house. I got to go into her house when it was still on the original site. And then we got in the car and we would drive around and she'd say "Alright here", and I'd say okay, this is the corner of dadada and dadada and then she told me what was there. And when they first moved here, they were up on Main Street.

15:12 David Allison

Yeah.

15:13 Karen McGuire

Before the big farmhouse and all, but that was very, very nice. And I think I told you about Mr. Huddard (??) when we talked before. But Mr. Huddard owned Broomfield Lumber and he had bought it from the Broomfield state bank when it went down in the Depression.

15:40 David Allison

Right.

15:42 Karen McGuire

Anyway, he was, it was whispered, that he was the millionaire that lived in Broomfield, it was talked about too much, for some reason, I'm not sure why, (laughter) but he was considered...

15:57 David Allison

A big, big guy.

16:00 Karen McGuire

Yeah, essentially. . So again, I was very intimidated. But we were remodeling our house in the meantime, and of course, we used Broomfield Lumber. So my husband knew him better than I did. But anyway, I asked him if he would let me do an oral history with him. And he said, "Yes, but no microphones." And I couldn't record it. I had to write it out.

16:24 David Allison

Wow.

16:25 Karen McGuire

And so I did that. And he said, "Now, when you get that written out, bring it back, I want to see it." And so I did. And he made some corrections, so I went back and corrected it, and took it back, and I'm not sure how many times, but anyway, he was satisfied with it, finally. Then after that, the rest of the people around, you know, knowing that he said it was ok....(laughter)

16:52 Karen McGuire

....we got some more histories.

16:59 Karen McGuire

You want to hear the ghost story?

17:01 David Allison

I'd love to Yeah, that's one of those stories that everybody loves to hear.

17:08 Karen McGuire

We kind of tamped it down, because we were afraid kids would break in to see the ghost, you know, with nobody over there. But my husband, and one of our volunteers was a licensed electrician. And

they were working on the electrical in the building at night, because they both worked. And so they go over there, you know, after supper, and work and they were working up in the attic. And you know how those doors open into the attic?...

17:39 David Allison

Yeah

17:40 Karen McGuire

...and they were working in there. And they swore, both of them, up and down, that they would put their toolboxes in one place and go back and it wouldn't be there.

17:49 David Allison

Oh, no.

17:50 Karen McGuire

And I don't know. I don't know about that. But it was historic...(laughter)

17:55 David Allison

Corroborated with two guys, though, Yeah, that was pretty good.

18:05 Karen McGuire

For myself. I used to go over there alone and work on cataloging up in the upstairs, in the room to the right. And I remember a couple of times, I would be, you know, busy working on my stuff at my table. and I would just feel like somebody was in the doorway. I thought somebody had come up the stairs, and I didn't hear him. And I would look up and there was nobody there. And that happened a couple of times. And I thought, I don't know. But I don't know what that was about. But anyway.....

19:35 David Allison

Well, I think the story continues at one of our...

18:41 David Allison

He usually sits right over there. He's our communications guy. When he was over there watching the Depot one day, on a Saturday when we were open, he swears that he heard people, you know, walking around upstairs, and then it goes up there from the basement and nobody there. So yeah, I think the story is continuing.

19:01 Karen McGuire

Well, well, I don't know.

19:05 David Allison

I think the last time we were talking you had mentioned the Depot opened to the public in 1983.

19:13 David Allison

What was that kind of process, like and how did the community kind of respond when that happened?

19:19 Karen McGuire

Um, not much.(laughter)

19:22 Karen McGuire

Because as I mentioned, people around here viewed Broomfield as a suburb, and you know, didn't pay any attention to the old part of town there. They were focused on what was going on here. And so, you know, it was hard. We had, you know, things in the paper and that kind of thing. But again, even that was a little hard to do, to get the attention.

19:49 David Allison

Right

19:50 Karen McGuire

But we did, I don't know how the teachers knew, but we did get requests from the Kohl school second grade class to come over and we had nothing to show them. We didn't even have the showcases at that time. We didn't have those yet. And so we said, well, we don't have anything. And they said, well, let's just let them see the building. So we brainstormed and decided my husband's dad was a dispatcher on Burlington railroad.

20:28 David Allison

Okay.

20:29 Karen McGuire

And so he, in the early early years, did the telegraphy. And so we have recordings from him.of telegraphy, I think, maybe, I gave that to you.

20:42 Karen McGuire

But anyway, so we had that. And it had train sounds on it, too. So we set that up, and got the kids in the big room there. And I had them back up against the wall, putting their hands on the wall. They were second graders. And so I said, Now, can you feel it? The train's coming. We turned the sound up. It's coming. Do you feel it rumbling? Oh, yeah, we can. (Laughter)

21:08 Karen McGuire

And that kind of thing. And so we did those kinds of tours. And then we talked about, you know, talked about the history too. Yeah.but that was fun. That was fun stuff. And we continued, you know, to do the tours all along.

21:24 David Allison

That's great.

21:26 David Allison

Was that something over time? Because you were Director for a number of years, do you remember how long.?

21:34 Karen McGuire  
about 15.

21:36 David Allison  
Yeah.

21:37 Karen McGuire  
You know, we were so busy keeping track of everything else. I didn't sit down, I'd say Oh, I started dadada...Yeah, we didn't. So it was 10 or 15 years, probably more like 15. I ended in '94 because my husband's job looked like it was going to change and I thought we were going to have to move.

21:57 David Allison  
Okay.

21:57 Karen McGuire  
So I asked Peggy to take over. She was with the Questers at that time and I knew she was interested in the history. And you know, she did a good job of keeping it alive. She kept it alive for a lot of years.

22:13 David Allison  
Absolutely.

22:15 Karen McGuire  
You asked about the response in town as far as adults. You know, we opened on Sundays, and there were a lot of Sundays that not a single person came in. And sometimes it was two or three. And, you know, so we started doing some things. I mentioned that reminiscing program that we did. So we had some reenactors in to do different things. We had, I think, a revolutionary war, and I think we had a World War II guy.

22:57 Karen McGuire  
And then we had the guy with a teepee. Oh, yes. Because I thought that was interesting. That was one of the things we emphasized with the kids, that this was Indian Territory, and that the Indians were here. And so I thought it was interesting. How in the world did they put up a teepee?

23:17 David Allison  
Right.

23:18 Karen McGuire  
Because they're huge. They're bigger than you think of them as being. And so, we had a friend whose family camped in the teepee, of all things. And so he came and in his buckskins and what have you and demonstrated; he set the teepee up out in the yard there. And so that was one of them. And Eleanor Collins. I don't know if you read the thing that I gave you from her?

23:45 David Allison

Yes, yes.

23:47 Karen McGuire

She was on Pearl Harbor.

23:48 David Allison

Right, right.

23:49 Karen McGuire

And so she talked to a group. And so we got more notice that way by letting people be aware that we were and what we were doing.

24:03 David Allison

Yeah. Yeah. That's great. That's great.

24:06 David Allison

I was curious, too, as you think about how Broomfield changed. You said you came in 1967, Broomfield's pretty.....

24:06 Karen McGuire

Small, 7000 people

24:06 David Allison

Yeah, 7000 people, and then you know what it is today. Like, what were some of the things that you think are maybe markers in that change that you've seen over time or?.....

24:34 Karen McGuire

Well, the shopping center over here, that was taken down. That was you know, that was the main part of Broomfield. This right here was the main thing going on because the city offices were right over there and most of the doctors' offices and that kind of thing. This part of Broomfield wasn't...there wasn't much up here.

24:57 David Allison

Yeah.

24:58 Karen McGuire

And the Shopping Center is where the bank was and a drugstore. Later there was a Safeway. And there was Helen's, it was Helen's Dress Shop. And there was a Ben Franklin. And over the years, there was a furniture store over there, I think. You know, it changed kind of gradually. But taking that out, it was mainly a big deal as showing the progress that was about to happen. I don't know, you know, it was all pretty gradual with things slowly developing on the other side of Main Street. There was the Safeway over there. But before that, on that corner, I understand, Mrs. Brunner told me, there was a dairy there, where the old Safeway building was

26:03 David Allison

Interesting.

25:04 Karen McGuire

But that was all, you know, that was all open land over there.

26:09 David Allison

And the Codesaks (??) would have been in the area that's now where the Brunner house is , right?

26:16 Karen McGuire

Right, right. And that house, their home, was right up against Main. It was right on Main Street. You know, the Brunner house is set back, but it was right where you drive in.

26:29 David Allison

Oh, that's where the house was, right in that spot.

26:34 Karen McGuire

And the barn. There was the big barn; that broke my heart when they burned that barn down.

26:39 David Allison

Yeah, it was a controlled burn by the Fire Department.

26:42 Karen McGuire

It was awful, just awful.

26:46 David Allison

It doesn't make much sense to me. You see the pictures of it; I mean, this is a beautiful barn. Why would you do that?

26:52 Karen McGuire

Practice, they kept telling us it was practice, practice on something else. Yeah, those were the kinds of things that were hard to see because they were the basis of Broomfield when we moved here. And it was not valued for what was. Broomfield was bent on becoming a shiny new suburb and they had no regard for....the developers. Of course, the developers were in control. And all of that land was valuable and not valued for the history.

27:31 David Allison

Yeah. Yeah.

27:32 Karen McGuire

And that was hard for me to take. And I understand, but nevertheless, it took the heart out of Broomfield, I thought; it was the way it felt to me.

27:32 David Allison

I think that's a really interesting point. And you know, it does feel like Broomfield kind of has these different kind of stages of, you know, there's of course, the old part of Broomfield down there south of 120th and then the move up to Garden Center, where we are now, and then it kind of moves further down 120th, on the other side of Main. And then, you know, it's kind of hard to say now as even Baseline is getting developed, to like what that will look like in the future, too. It's really, really interesting.

28:18 David Allison

Interesting. Was there anything else that we didn't talk about or that you wanted to talk about? I'm just curious, too, about raising your family here. And what that was like, as you were doing that?

28:32 Karen McGuire

We picked Broomfield, my husband worked at Stapleton. So it was quite a drive for him. Yeah. But we picked Broomfield because we came from Western Nebraska, both of us. And we wanted something more rural and smaller, to raise our daughter because we had been living in Aurora when he first got his job with Frontier Airlines. And we wanted, you know, something like that. And so that's why we moved out here. And it was, you know, it was a place your child could walk to school. We lived close to Emerald school and our daughter walked to school. She even walked to high school, actually.

29:21 Karen McGuire

But, it was a small town. And you know, there was one, no, there were two grocery stores. There was Safeway, and there was, I think it was called, Johnsons. And it was right down here on Nickel; it was where the Bouquet Boutique is now. Oh, yeah, it was there.

29:48 David Allison

Okay

29:49 Karen McGuire

And later became the hardware store, Broomfield Hardware.

29:57 Karen McGuire

It was a good place, a good place for our daughter to grow up. We liked it very much. I,

30:09 Karen McGuire

I was upset after we'd been here a while that there was no swimming pool. I thought, well, that's ridiculous in a town this size. And so I called the city and I was saying, Well, what in the world is this? You know, there was a private pool, but we couldn't afford that. And so I called the city and I said, Well, what's the deal here? How come there's no pool and nada, nada? And they said, well, there's a move to do something about that. And the Park Committee had been formed, but there was no park director at that time. They had just hired George DiCiero as the director....

30:51 David Allison

The city manager,

30:53 Karen McGuire

City manager, right but there was no park director at that time. But there was a committee of citizens that were trying to get some things done about pools and parks and that kind of thing early on, because things were developing pretty fast at that time.

31:10 Karen McGuire

So they said, well, here's, here's the name of the person who's heading that committee if you want to try to do something about this, and that was (Thelma Bensok)?? And so I called her. And, you know, again, I was saying, well, what's the deal here? And how come?

31:28 Karen McGuire

And she said, well put up or shut up, and get on the committee and try to help or shut up. And so I did..

31:38 Karen McGuire

And so I was on that for several years as we went along, trying to get a referendum passed for money to fund a Park Department. And so that all happened. I think I gave you that flier that we delivered door to door...

31:57 David Allison

Yeah

32:00 Karen McGuire

...to try to get people to vote for it, which they did. And then they hired a park director. His name was Don France.

32:11 Karen McGuire

And I'm not sure how long he was here, before Paul was hired. And that was a big boon for Broomfield.

32:22 David Allison

Paul Derda had so much energy.

32:25 Karen McGuire

And beyond the things most people don't see. I've worked with him for so many years.

32:31 Karen McGuire

But the thing most people don't see, beyond all that clown stuff that he does, he is an excellent organizer. And he was an excellent manager. He knew exactly what he was doing. And he developed what we see now.

32:47 David Allison

Yeah, yeah,

32:49 Karen McGuire

That all came through him. And people don't realize that; they just see the fun guy. But there's way more to him than that.

32:59 Karen McGuire

But anyway....

33:00 David Allison

That's great. That's great. And then the first pool, just to kind of tie that story together, where, when was that built?

33:09 Karen McGuire

That was an indoor pool and that was in the old rec center.

33:13 David Allison

Okay. Yeah

33:14 Karen McGuire

It was in the old rec center. And that was funny, too. We, you know, things were different then; things now are very ... I don't know what the word is.... organized or official.

33:35 David Allison

Yeah, there's a process and an official....

33:37 Karen McGuire

Right, everything goes through a procedure. Well, then it was just like, Okay, let's do that. And we did it. And so anyway, one of the jobs that this park committee was given was trying to figure out about a pool, what kind of pool. And again, because, I don't know, there was not a director at that time, there still wasn't a park director. It was just George. And so we had researched different kinds of pools, and we were going to go around and look at these different pools. And so George went with us and he was young; he was really young and, and new at the job. And again, he was another guy who was really good at his job. But, the day we were going to go look at this pool over in Northglenn, he came with us and he was in this brand new suit. And it may have been his first brand.

34:34 Karen McGuire

It kind of hung on him, kind of skinny and young, but anyway, he looked great. And so we get over there and the people at the pool said, Well, now you need to see how it works down underneath. So we're down underneath and we're under the pool and it's moist and there's mushrooms (Laughter)

34:56 Karen McGuire

We're down there, I don't even remember what we looked at, but there we were.

35:00 Karen McGuire

Here's George down there.

35:02 David Allison

Wearing his new suit.

35:00 Karen McGuire

Man, he was right in there.

35:06 Karen McGuire

I always admired that about him. He was so game.

35:11 David Allison

Doing what it took

35:12 Karen McGuire

Yes, he did.

35:14 David Allison

That's great. I love that.

35:18 Karen McGuire

You have to keep me on track.

35:20 David Allison

No, I appreciate it, that was great. I really appreciate that. That's the kind of story that's worth hearing, for sure.

35:29 David Allison

Anything else about your time in Broomfield or the museum itself, anything you've seen over time that you wanted to share before we finish up?

35:40 Karen McGuire

The way we.....Along the way. I was thinking about the historical society along the way, we basically when people would come to the museum to visit and want to donate and write us a check. They're saying, Well, why don't we write it to the historical society and not? You know, and we kept getting that question. So finally, we decided to dissolve the Historical Society, which was just a group that was not anything official and make it the Broomfield Depot Museum and we filed for the 501C3. So that's what we did.

36:31 Karen McGuire

And I don;t know where I was going with that.

36:34 David Allison

No, but as you develop that, it sounds like that group then was able to take it on, it was the same people.

36:42 Karen McGuire

We were just called something different. So we decided that that was a good decision to do.

36:51 David Allison

And then were you a part of any of the process of the city taking ownership, and you know, I think Peggy was the director at that time,

37:11 Karen McGuire

Taking ownership of the collection and the museum? No, that was when Peggy was there, yeah. But when I left, it was still, we were still just all volunteers. And we had no financial support from the city, except for doing, you know, repairs and things that needed to be done.

37:29 David Allison

Right

37:30 Karen McGuire

And they were, I can't tell you how amazing it was, too. I had no idea that they would back us like they did. And, you know, especially when they saw we didn't know what we were doing.

37:46 Karen McGuire

Just to me, they were amazing.

37:51 David Allison

Do you recall?... It sounds like the safe that was there, is still there, I presume? And then some of the other things in the office, in particular, seems like they're still original to the building. Do you recall any of the other things, the linoleum we talked about...?

38:11 Karen McGuire

The bench, of course, the bench, you know,

38:18 David Allison

The waiting room bench

38:20 Karen McGuire

Yeah. And, I think.....Oh yeah, one of the carts, the luggage cart in that little entry.

38:32 David Allison

In the foyer?

38:36 Karen McGuire

Yeah, that was there. And I'm not sure about those wands in the office.

38:42 David Allison

Oh, yes. The message forks.

38:46 Karen McGuire

It kind of seems like they were there. I don't recall taking those in, but I could be wrong about that.

38:52 David Allison

Interesting.

38:56 Karen McGuire

And I think the telegraph key ,I don't know about that.

39:02 Karen McGuire

I kinda think, almost think that was donated...

39:07 David Allison

Maybe added later. Yeah

39:10 Karen McGuire

Kinda think so, it seems like it.

39:12 David Allison

Yeah. And then you can still see some of the original fixtures and switches and those sorts of things on the walls.

39:21 Karen McGuire

None of that was replaced that I remember, even though they did work on the electrical, but I think that was upstairs, just making sure that nothing was, you know, there were mice up there, right and making sure that nothing was chewed through and dangerous.

39:38 David Allison

Yeah, that makes sense.

39:21 Karen McGuire

Good. Karen, I just want to say, personally, I really appreciate you and what you've done for the community. And hearing the other story, too, about your work with the Parks Committee and getting the Parks Department off the ground and all those things. It's just wonderful to hear and I really thank you

39:58 Karen McGuire

You know, in the meantime, while we were doing the museum, I was working halftime at the middle school.

40:03 David Allison

Oh, where are you?

40:05 Karen McGuire

Yeah, I worked half a day at the middle school. That building opened in '83. So yeah, I was thinking about that today. I don't know that happened.

40:03 David Allison

How did you do those things?

40:17 Karen McGuire

Oh, I don't know, too dumb to know any better, I guess.

40:23 Karen McGuire

But, that limited things; we met once a week to work over there on things and so that was how we did that. Anyway, sorry.

40:31 David Allison

No, that's great. Thank you so much. I appreciate that. And, yeah, it's really been fun to talk with you today.

40:38 Karen McGuire

I appreciate that you want to know about this. It's fading fast in here. When you're 83, things begin to go, so I'm glad it helps put some things in perspective.

40:51 David Allison

It absolutely does and those stories are just priceless because it really is the history, and it's the history of this place. It's the history of the museum, and people need to hear it because the community, as we were talking about, just keeps changing all the time, new people coming and all those things. So holding on to what we were, while we look to the future, is really important.

41:11 Karen McGuire

I'm glad you're doing that. I worry about that, because it's moving so fast now, and I hope you continue to let people know what was here. I think it's important.

41:25 David Allison

Absolutely. Absolutely. Thank you. Appreciate it, Karen.

41:29 Karen McGuire

You're welcome.