

Annie Lessem 0:00

Okay, I just turned it on. So just say your name, and then I'll say the date and everything else.

Robert Law 0:07

Okay. Robert Law.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 0:09

Elizabeth Law-Evans.

Annie Lessem 0:11

Okay. And I am Annie Lessem. And we have to also say what our relationship is. I don't know you, but I'm going to get to know you well tonight, or at least for the next half hour. And you are my city council person?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 0:28

Well, um, I think we're also friends

Annie Lessem 0:30

and friends. Yeah. And friends.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 0:32

And then I've literally known this man my entire life because he's my dad.

Robert Law 0:38

That's right, she's my daughter.

Annie Lessem 0:39

Yes. And it is September 26. Okay, so first, tell me when you moved here and why you moved here.

Robert Law 0:50

Okay. I graduated from [unclear] Colorado, many years ago, not 64 years ago, something like that. I'd have to figure the dates. But I went back to Wichita, Kansas. And I realized that I was never going to go anywhere, building airplanes. And so I told my wife that we were working on a shift from 10 to two in the morning, or eight to two in the morning, something like that. Swing Shift, it was called. And one time I came home, we had dinner, had dinner 2:30 In the morning, and I said, you know, I'm never gonna go anywhere, here at Boeing. It's there. And I explained the reasons. And next night, boy, she put down her fork and knife during dinner, same time, and said, We're both native Coloradoans What the hell are we doing in the middle of Kansas? So we talked about that for a few days. And we decided that there was no future for me, ever at Boeing. And well, I remember region, the president of that division there in Wichita was only about 45 years old. And I said, I'd have to wait all my life for him to turn 65 and get out of there. And so I said, there's just no future for me. ever here at Boeing. So she put her fork down next night. And he said, we're both native Coloradoans. What the hell are we doing in the middle of

Kansas? So we thought about that for a while and, and put up our house. But that time, I was always building houses. I buy a lot somewhere, and build a house. And that house I built in Wichita was a terrific house, it was a solar house. And

Elizabeth Law-Evans 3:13  
But you put it on the market,

Robert Law 3:14  
put it on the market. And I got, we sold it. And then we load up all our tools and everything in a DMZ pickup that had sideboards and all full of tools, really. And so we drove back there, and Denver was east of Boulder. And we went through this toll house, and paid our 25 cents to go through the toll house. And I said to her, I said, you know, if we're going to relocate here to Colorado, but other times I say we're always buying lots of building houses. And so we bought a lot and we found somebody who would sell us seven acres for \$2,300. Right, right off the turnpike. And so we bought that thing and built a house there.

Annie Lessem 4:29  
Was that in Broomfield?

Robert Law 4:31  
Yeah,

Annie Lessem 4:31  
okay,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 4:32  
what is now industrial lane because

Robert Law 4:34  
it was not Broomfield. It was just a wide spark road. Denver was east and Boulder was West. Longmont was North and Arvada was South. There was a crossroads. So I said to her I said this would be a terrific place to buy a lot and develop it. And so the idea was, we're gonna buy this seven acres of land and build houses. And then that that worked. Alright. And we did build a house. But we decided that we could use the land a lot better and develop it higher if we built industrial property. So we built about 15, nah weren't quite that many, about 10. warehouses that averaged oh, let's say 25,000 square feet each 20,000 square feet each. And we built these things. And then they in the city, renamed the the [Prater] drive, it was called [Prater] drive and renamed it industrial lane, for some reason,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 6:03  
because you had all the properties out there that were industrial properties,

Robert Law 6:07

I guess that's right. Yeah. That's what it was. And that's what it's been called, ever since. There was a [unclear] family out there. And another lady [Darnell Kelly], was her name, and she was a seamstress. And she made clothes for people. But [Schwarzenberger] family lived out there. I'm still friends with this.

Annie Lessem 6:39

Wow. Wow. So were you born yet?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 6:43

No, not when they moved here. I was born in 61. And you moved here in 56? 57?

Robert Law 6:52

Bought the land, in 54 and I moved there in 55. And she was born a few years later and I had four kids,

Annie Lessem 7:10

wow. So and where do you fall?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 7:13

I am the third. My oldest sister. I don't know what Carrie, was born in Boulder. Right? Yes. And then my sister Amy and I were born in Denver. And my brother, my younger brother. I have no idea where he was born. I'm pretty sure he was. Yeah, he must have been born in Denver. Yeah. Those were the closest hospitals at the time.

Robert Law 7:37

Yeah. Yep. And they're all still around. And I'm still friends and we love each other a lot. We spent a long time in a family together. Although we have other friends. But my oldest girl do you want to know the sad thing?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 8:00

No, Well, let's let's let Annie go on with her questions Robert.

Robert Law 8:03

Okay.

Annie Lessem 8:04

Okay, I was gonna ask you. What's your best memory of Broomfield?

Robert Law 8:14

Well, one of the more vivid memory just when they announced this Broomfield Heights business. The turnpike land company bought hundreds of acres right off the turn. We were west and north of that interchange and they bought hundreds of acres. I don't know how many acreage they bought and announced the turn- turnpike Land Company was the name of this

development company. And they start building houses and then go 1000s by the hundreds if not 1000s.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 9:05

What is now the first filing

Robert Law 9:07

First filing, that's right. Yes.

Annie Lessem 9:09

First filing? Yeah. And from the first house you built in Broomfield Did did you move from there? Tell me tell me how you've moved through Broomfield. Yeah

Elizabeth Law-Evans 9:28

you built the house on on what is now industrial lane.

Robert Law 9:30

Yeah, but

Annie Lessem 9:34

and then Then where did you go?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 9:36

And when I was I can remember part of this dad when I was five. You and mom wanted to be up near the Methodist Church.

Robert Law 9:46

Yeah, and she, that's right. My wife Patricia wanted said I'm tired of living out of industrial lane or [Prater] drive. And I'd like to To move to Broomfield, so we walked over and she she picked a lot first. And it's the lot is now by the Methodist Church and the Broomfield High School, and a lot of other churches we're surrounded by churches right there.

Annie Lessem 10:17

Okay, so it was the same place that Methodist churches now. Okay,,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 10:21

Well. it moved right about that same time. They were out on Allison Street and that little buildings still exists. And then they moved. And mom and dad were very involved in the church at the time.

Robert Law 10:34

That's right. That's right. Yeah, that's right. And

Elizabeth Law-Evans 10:38

how long have you lived in that house? Again, Dad? Or, have we lived?

Robert Law 10:41

51 years

Annie Lessem 10:42

51. Wow. In the same house by the Methodist Church,

Robert Law 10:46

Yeah

Annie Lessem 10:46

and you still live there now?

Robert Law 10:48

I do

Annie Lessem 10:48

Wow. You've seen a lot a lot of kids

Robert Law 10:52

Alot of it happened before that time, too.

Annie Lessem 10:54

Right, right.

Robert Law 10:58

Yeah, all right. Well, I live there. The only thing my wife Patricia selected that lot. And what I didn't realize was what she called south was actually southwest. And so the solar pins did not work. It still doesn't work. And then my, I have to correct myself every time I think that's south. No, that's south.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 11:31

That's not Cardinal. So. Right.

Annie Lessem 11:33

It's hard because the roads at a diagonal.

Robert Law 11:36

That's right. The roads right there are at an angle. Yeah.

Annie Lessem 11:42

Right.

Robert Law 11:43

And we did. My wife was the hostess of the Methodist church for years. And then Sylvia Sauer, whose name was Sylvia Swink. Took over her job.

Annie Lessem 12:07

Do you Do you remember any other kind of big major events here in town? I'm sure there were a bunch. If you've lived here in that house for 51 years, you must have seen a bunch of events here in town.

Robert Law 12:22

Well, I remember the first Broomfield Days and they still have Broomfield Days. And they had the first first ones. We

Elizabeth Law-Evans 12:37

you were in that parade that first Broomfield days parade, right?

Unknown Speaker 12:39

right. We had I remember what was we were in at first Broomfield. We had a lovely, Thunderbird convertible, Thunderbird Ford convertible,

Annie Lessem 12:54

what color

Robert Law 12:55

black. God, it was gorgeous. It's the most beautiful car I've ever seen little and never, I stupidly sold it years ago. And but we had a had a little German band, and my wife. Her mother drove the thing and she had a white leather coat and the rest of the we had a Hungry 5 band, and there were five of us. And we all sat around and stood up and leaned against the front windshield and sat on the back and played in that in the first

Elizabeth Law-Evans 13:46

Broomfield days

Robert Law 13:47

Broomfield Days Parade. Yes, now

Annie Lessem 13:48

that would have been fun to see. Did you go?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 13:51

Oh, I'm sure I did. But I don't remember it. But in that movie that they did several years ago for the 50th anniversary. There are clips of the first couple of Broomfield days parades and

Annie Lessem 14:03

Didn't know there was a movie

Elizabeth Law-Evans 14:04

Oh yeah, yeah, there's there's no there's it's startling how few trees there were. People you know you drive along Midway and there's no trees then. And it's very different. So

Robert Law 14:17

that's one of the biggest changes through the years is all the trees

Annie Lessem 14:23

that's what I was gonna ask you next is what changes you've seen.

Robert Law 14:27

Oh yea, well, certainly the the trees they haven't changed the road very much. There's places they should change it. But they haven't changed it. Let's see they built a Catholic church down on Main Street

Elizabeth Law-Evans 14:49

Midway.

Robert Law 14:50

Midway, Midway. If anything this is Broomfield is a town of churches. There are more churches in this town, there are churches everywhere in this town. And that's fine. You know, but let's say Okay, what else is

Elizabeth Law-Evans 15:12

changes? Other changes?

Annie Lessem 15:13

Other changes? No, there's certainly are more people.

Robert Law 15:18

Oh, yeah, well, yeah, that's right. The population of Broomfield has grown many, many times. And they started out with 1000 houses in the turnpike land. And they're working with maybe three or 4000 people in and it just kept growing. And now they're up to 60 to 60. Well, not 70,000 More,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 15:48

pretty much. And when when you built that house wasn't the road gravel? The road in front was gravel, and I know that 10th was gravel.

Robert Law 15:59

Yes, there were, off of..

Elizabeth Law-Evans 16:03

Emerald street. The Emerald street house. Cause 10th was gravel for years past the high school. Things like that, City services,

Robert Law 16:16

I can't remember whether it was no, I made a couple of mistakes on that house. It has a ramp going down into it. And so every time as soon as you got to shovel all that snow up in the cars and skid around a little bit to in there. I should have designed the house where the the bedroom area was above the garage that's and simply design it so you drove off. off the street, I made mistakes. And also the angle it sits at. It's not a solar house, right.

But we all make mistakes.

We all make mistakes.

Annie Lessem 17:03

So you grew up near the high school? Was it always the high school?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 17:07

It was the Junior High and high school for a long time until they built Broomfield Heights, and went to the middle school thing. But I went to junior high and high school right there. I went to Kohl school. And then Broomfield Junior High School, which was kind of the north end of what is now the high school. And then the high school proper. So yes,

Annie Lessem 17:28

okay, because you and I don't have a whole lot in common. But I grew up just around the corner from the high school.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 17:36

Right,

Annie Lessem 17:37

That I went to. And so I always remember when someone says what do you remember? The marching band? Do you remember the marching bands did they play? Could you hear them from your house?

Robert Law 17:52

Yeah, I heard him the other day. Get ready for the first football game,

Annie Lessem 17:57

right? Yeah, you know that it's fall. It's like it makes me so happy to know that it's gonna be cool. As soon as you hear the marching bands.

Robert Law 18:08



Well, I have to remember it. I played tuba. In every band that I could play in. I still play tuba. And now they are so heavy. That's the ones that center, right. I can't carry them. I'm old and weak. And so I gave all my horns away. And then I gave the four valve upright tubas away. And now I play a much lighter. Three valve tuba plays the same parts. But I have played musical instruments all my life

Elizabeth Law-Evans 18:48  
when did you learn to play tuba dad?

Robert Law 18:50  
I was given a tuba. When I was, eighty-four years ago when I was seven. And I lived in a little town called Cheyenne Wells out by the Kansas border. Have you ever heard of Cheyenne Wells?

Annie Lessem 19:08  
No.

Robert Law 19:09  
Have you heard of Burlington? It's south of Burlington about 30 miles.

Annie Lessem 19:14  
Okay. I've heard of Burlington, but not in Kansas.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 19:17  
East. It was just this side of the Kansas border just in Colorado. It's east of Colorado Springs and pueblo.

Annie Lessem 19:24  
Okay,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 19:24  
way east almost to the border.

Annie Lessem 19:26  
Okay. Cause when you say Burlington, I think Vermont.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 19:29  
Nope. Not that Burlington.

Annie Lessem 19:31  
Not that Burlington. So you were here also during the Korean War, is that right?

Robert Law 19:39  
Yeah.

Annie Lessem 19:39

So were there things going on in town during that war that were kind of different than the way life had been before?

Robert Law 19:49

Oh, not from my standpoint. I. No, I did not in The Korean War. That's not the war I was involved in. I was in the very tail end of the Second World War, I was in it. I was going to be pilot training, I had passed the exams for going into pilot training. And about four or five months before that war ended, that's the second world war. They announced, I got a letter saying that all pilot training, the war was essentially won and all pilot training was stopped. And I had a choice. I could go in the Army as a clerk typist which meant the infantry, I could go in the infantry man, which meant the infantry or I could go in and become a mechanic an airplane mechanic. And I chose that. And so when I, I, that was in right, the tail end of 1944

Annie Lessem 21:18

So you were you were still in Kansas, then?

Robert Law 21:20

No, no.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 21:22

He grew up, his later years in Boulder,

Annie Lessem 21:24

okay,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 21:25

and then went to the university there.

Annie Lessem 21:27

Okay.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 21:27

But then you went to war, but between times, right?

Robert Law 21:30

That's right. Yes. Yeah, I tried. I tried. I was I didn't necessarily use Boeing airplanes. Well, eventually I learned how to fly. Because I I went to University of Colorado. Like came back from Boulder. Sorry. When I came back from

Elizabeth Law-Evans 21:56

the army,

Robert Law 21:57  
no, Kansas.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 21:59  
Oh,

Robert Law 22:01  
Wichita,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 22:01  
Wichita.

Robert Law 22:02  
When I came back from Wichita. I decided I still wanted to learn how to fly even though they had sent me this letter that all pilot train. And so I went to the airport, right out here. By Boulder, between Boulder and Denver, it's still there. It's in one of these little, the Piper Cub, these little tiny airplanes that have canvas stretched over a steel frame and learn how to fly in those. And then later on, I got a chance to buy a Cessna air -but I was, oh Lord. I started contracting in Wyoming. I start. Oh, damn.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 22:56  
Heating and air conditioning.

Robert Law 22:58  
Yeah, I started heating and air conditioning. And of all places. I ended up going to Wyoming and it seemed like every hotel and big building. They're all hotels that I bid on, was in Wyoming And so I drove Ford trucks between Broomfield and Laramie or Casper for a lot of times, and I got tired of driving 80 miles an hour and so I got a chance to buy this old Cessna. It was a beautiful airplane. It was it was not. It was a small plane, single engine, but it was aluminum made out of aluminum. And for the next many years, I contracted in Wyoming I built hotels and motels all over Wyoming for years and years.

Annie Lessem 24:10  
Did you build here in Broomfield too?

Robert Law 24:12  
Nope

Elizabeth Law-Evans 24:13  
Not that he built his industrial buildings that we still own and operate?

Robert Law 24:17  
That's right.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 24:18

But I have a I have a story about him flying home because I was growing up at the time, of course, and Dad would come home for the weekends. And in the summertime especially this is before cell phones before there was no wait for the radio. He couldn't radio us or anything. But he knew that most summer afternoons we'd be hanging out at the pool at the Broomfield swim club now the Broomfield Swim and Tennis Club. So he would he would fly the flight pattern to land at what is now the Rocky Mountain Regional Airport. He used to be Jeffco airport, and he would fly the pattern but he know that he'd be flying right over this Swim Club. And he he figured that we'd be there. So in order to tell us that we needed to come pick him up Tell mom they load the kids in the car. He buzzed the pool. Fly low and rev the engine and buzz the pool we'd be like okay, there's dad we better go to the airport. So that was that was the the precursor to the cell phone

Robert Law 25:12

I could roll the airplane over and the exhaust was aimed right at the pool and then make a terrible noise

Elizabeth Law-Evans 25:22

every, the whole world knew that Bob Law was coming home. My mother is less than keen about that memory.

Annie Lessem 25:32

So you went to the pool. That was what you did for fun. But what else did you do for fun here in town?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 25:42

We made a list. Well remember there was the pool and you played in the German band.

Robert Law 25:48

That's right. Played. Yeah, music. I've always been involved in music all my life. And I played a German band played a lot and Dixieland bands. I still play. I played the other day and Dixieland bands. Wow. Yeah.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 26:05

There were a lot of social clubs. There was the church clubs and Fifth Friday Friends, wanna tell Annie about Fifth Friday Friends?

Annie Lessem 26:12

What is Fifth Friday Friends?

Robert Law 26:14

That's right. Well, Fifth Friday Friends there along 120th street, there was a lumber yard. And across the street was a lovely house. And the guy who owned that Lumberyard house, was [Tim Hudard]. That's right. We used to call him Father Hudard every time I'd go in there, he'd give me

fatherly advice. Well, I don't want to offer advice, but fatherly advice, but here's how I do that. Teach me in many of the ideas I used in building by the time I was buying a lot of building, you know.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 26:58

So he started he started the Fifth Friday Friends

Robert Law 27:00

That's right. Oh, that's right. So right beside that there was a Grange house

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:07

still there

Robert Law 27:07

All, it's still there?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:09

It is, it is, Robert.

Robert Law 27:10

They, all over the West. They had

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:16

Grange Halls

Robert Law 27:16

Grange Halls, and they were for farmers there meeting places for farmers and other what's Ella runs out now. It's anyway, she started in that Grange Hall. She started a club called Fifth Friday Friends

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:37

Edith Martin.

Robert Law 27:38

Edith Martin, yes. And she's and that was right next to the

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:45

lumberyard

Robert Law 27:46

lumberyard and the church.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:50

Before the church before the Methodist Church moved. It was right out in that area.

Annie Lessem 27:55

So kind of where the depot was also.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 27:57

Yes, yes, yes. And this group for Friday friends still meets.

Annie Lessem 28:03

Wow,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 28:03

a lot fewer members. But Edith now lives at Corbin Manor there, Midway and Sheridan. And dad goes and who are some of the other members that still go, Dad?

Robert Law 28:16

Not many,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 28:17

not many

Annie Lessem 28:18

did it only met when there was a fifth Friday?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 28:21

And that was the idea. Yeah,

Robert Law 28:23

Yes, there. Every three months or five Fridays in the month? I never I never looked at it. But it's a it's a pretty named fifth Friday friend. And it's been going. For years and years.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 28:37

Decades,

Annie Lessem 28:38

decades. Yeah, I read the minutes of the Merry Mix club. And that one went for decades from seemed like it went from 1920 something into the 70s. Was your wife. Did your wife belong to the Merry Mix?

Robert Law 28:56

No, no. We had we were in another club. It was a beer and books. Beer and books club.

Annie Lessem 29:07

Now that sounds good.

Robert Law 29:11

For 43 years, and my wife Patricia and I started that. But that when was even before she was born, because all of our kids are met most of our kids were born. While we're in it for 43 years. We read a book a month. And it was it was called Beer and - We named that club beer and books. And for four to three years. And I told her some guy that one time he said he was a farmer out in eastern Colorado. He said you mean to tell me you read a book a month, for 43 years. I say yeah, don't you read books? And he said no, I don't. And I said why don't you read books? Well he said, it's not important in farming. and maybe that's true. But I did read a book a month with. In that book club

Annie Lessem 30:12

And did you drink beer?

Robert Law 30:14

Well, we served no, nobody drank heavily. But we did take some beer or some, I remember we served wine. I remember we bought box of wine. And, and the box of wine keep. Whereas without, if it has air in it, somehow it'd go flat. And so we would buy this and we would serve wine, the host would serve wine or beer at each of these meetings, and we would read every kind of book you can possibly imagine. Although we had limits. I can tell you how to organize one, if you if you invite people who, if the book club you have reads only love stories, a lot of people drop out. If you read, I've only history a lot of people will drop out. And so we went through that. And we finally ended up the couple with the next, gonna host the next company, would select the book. And though we finally decided, no more love stories, no more history, no history, we finally settled on history and geography. Those

Annie Lessem 31:45

Interesting,

Robert Law 31:46

yeah. So we would we would have that the prior meeting we would designate a country and everybody would have a different country they would or as a continent, in every everybody would read a book on that continent and give a book report

Annie Lessem 32:16

did you all read the same book?

Robert Law 32:19

Yes.

Annie Lessem 32:19

Okay.

Robert Law 32:20

Yeah. Yeah.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 32:22

Yeah. Yeah. In terms of, it was a very highbrow thing. It was very much ladies in cocktail dresses and men in suits. It was not

Annie Lessem 32:30

Wow

Elizabeth Law-Evans 32:31

A beer club like it like you envisioned today. And and there were as kids, we were always fascinated by it by the adults getting together and having this you know, you remember watching I Love Lucy, and how they would host gatherings in their home and, and Desi would be in a suit and tie and Lucy would be in the cocktail dress. That's the kind of thing it was then. And we were all fascinated by it.

Annie Lessem 32:55

Right? Yeah.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 32:56

As kids,

Annie Lessem 32:57

I think about the book club by men now. We're lucky if we're wearing shoes.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 33:01

Exactly, exactly.

Robert Law 33:03

What kind of books you read?

Annie Lessem 33:05

All kinds of books.

Robert Law 33:07

Well, okay, you aren't gonna have a bunch of a club. Till you start.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 33:12

Bob, maybe they organize a different, maybe it works for them.

Annie Lessem 33:17

No, but it's fun to hear how how other people organized?

Robert Law 33:21



well. No, I can't see how it works. Because people's interests, not everybody's interested in love stories and history at the same time.

Annie Lessem 33:31  
Right. Right.

Robert Law 33:32  
And so

Annie Lessem 33:36  
But we do a similar thing. The person whose house it's going to be at the next time selects the book. But for October, we always read some kind of spooky book. Yes, so this October, we're reading any book we want to do it keeps you up at night.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 34:04  
Oh awful.

Annie Lessem 34:08  
It is awful. Because I don't want to read a book that keeps me up at night.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 34:12  
Exactly.

Robert Law 34:14  
Well, that's an interesting principle. And if well, if they if the gang stays together, you can select any book like that if they want, but it doesn't work too good in that book club when you keep getting new members all the time, or what members drop out because I don't like that book, I'm not going this time.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 34:41  
Let's let Annie get to the rest of her questions. Robert.

Robert Law 34:43  
Okay.

Annie Lessem 34:43  
Yeah. So this questions not on the list. How have you changed since you've lived in Broomfield?

Robert Law 34:56  
Well, obviously gotten older.

Annie Lessem 34:59  
Yeah. But has Broomfield changed you? It's changed your daughter. I know that.

Robert Law 35:13

Well, it changed my business habits, because I bought this land right off the turnpike. And I still own land under industrial buildings there, you know, I developed that as far so and it changed my, the way I thought about things like, I suppose that's right.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 35:42

Well, and we had an interesting conversation when we were, you know, talking about this, about how, and maybe you're going to ask this question in a moment, but I think it ties in how you what you'd like to see happen to Broomfield in the future.

Annie Lessem 36:00

And that was where I was gonna go next

Elizabeth Law-Evans 36:03

And I the reason I think that ties in is because he has changed I'm sure we all have. We don't have a very good frame of reference but but where he is now and where he he'd like to see Broomfield go. You maybe this? Am I too early for that question?

Annie Lessem 36:22

Nah, you're fine.

Robert Law 36:23

We'll see.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 36:25

Well, so So we talked about how what would you like to see Broomfield? How would you like to see Broomfield change in the future? What do you hope Broomfield becomes?

Robert Law 36:38

Well, I'll tell you frankly, I would not like to see it get any bigger. I mean, this idea you're driving through Boulder and Denver. You know, it already is that way. And it's solid. We just drove up to Longmont and it's absolutely solid urban area, you know, between now and then. And certainly the trees you have all these trees that change the appearance of the town, and worst case is they blow down

Elizabeth Law-Evans 37:31

Yeah, so you hope Broomfield doesn't changes too much? You actually the other day you said to me that you like Broomfield just like it is

Robert Law 37:39

I do like Broomfield I would like it getting bigger.

Annie Lessem 37:43

Yeah, it has gotten a lot bigger since you've moved here. I mean, it went from what a couple 100 people to 70,000 people.

Robert Law 37:55

I knew every person within five miles of Broomfield.

Annie Lessem 38:02

Wow,

Robert Law 38:03

Every single one. I knew their maiden names the girls, Bob Sauer, who was on the other side of the tracks, married Sylvia Swank. And she was out there. Father Hudard Or Mr. Hudard owned a lotta land West. There were a couple of guys that ran. Oh there was a guy that that had a backhoe. He was a farmer, but he had a backhoe. And he dug every basement in town.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 38:41

And his name was Frank Varra.

Annie Lessem 38:46

That was just

Robert Law 38:46

No, Varra was.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 38:48

You told me that Frank Varra dug the basement for the first little house.

Robert Law 38:52

Yes,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 38:52

That's not who you were talking about?

Robert Law 38:54

Yeah, no. It was I I got confused on on. which guys did what but he had a little backhoe and he dug all the basements and things like that.

Annie Lessem 39:14

What else would you like to see in Broomfield in the future other than not getting any bigger?

Robert Law 39:25

I would like to see a shopping center that Broomfield has grown up to not have a central shopping center. And there's a logical place for it. That space where the old Safeway was, what's the name of that place?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 39:45

Oh, yeah. Where's the old Safeway was is, what we call it. Well, we're kind of calling it the civic center.

Robert Law 39:51

That's Right.

Annie Lessem 39:52

You know, Broomfield has something. To me. That's very special. And other towns have an old downtown. And Broomfield old downtown is gone.

Robert Law 40:09

It was never.

Annie Lessem 40:10

But Broomfield has a civic center that has ponds, and trees and birds, and playgrounds for kids. And to me that's, you can build a building. But you can't create an outdoor area that's natural once you've built the building. Do you know what I'm, it goes in. And I would love to see Broomfield embrace the fact that our civic center is a natural area with wildlife. I mean, the geese and the gulls and the two ponds in the empty the empty land with the trees. And the fact that, you know, what's his name? Tom? I can't remember. So it's it's building the arboretum there and community park. Tom Wells. It needs to me. It needs some permanent shade. And some, you know, a coffee shop or a bakery or something simple, but it was like, don't try to be what you're not celebrate what you are. And I think that that's it makes Broomfield a little bit unique that our civic center is celebrating nature. Don't you think? I mean, I'm not-

Elizabeth Law-Evans 41:51

I hear what you're saying. That's not the direction it's going

Annie Lessem 41:53

No,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 41:53

But I hear what you're saying.

Annie Lessem 41:55

And it can be both. There's no reason it can't be both

Unknown Speaker 41:59

I hope it will. And that's what I think we're trying to accomplish. Right. That's a very large discussion.

Annie Lessem 42:04

Yes. Not one necessarily for this interview. But I just wondered if you had some thoughts about like, what you would like to see the civic center of Broomfield turn into?

Robert Law 42:20

Well, from what you're describing, I think what you'd like to have is a park area with maybe a restaurant here. And something simple that would complement the park and go in, and maybe a beer garden. Serve a few beers. Right off of this park in a nice restaurant. I would I would say I would like to do see that.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 42:55

Gee, I wonder who we can talk to about that? Probably me.

Robert Law 43:01

Oh, you, well, what do you think about that?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 43:05

Um, I think it's a very large discussion. And I think that after having traveled to places where we go to Disney World, like once a year, because I just love it. Well, my whole family loves it, and watching how they take the physical characteristics of buildings and trails and things like that, pathways, and use it to create very artificial, but still very effective gathering spaces, and entice you in with the architecture with the construction. I think there's a lot more to it than then leaving it the way it is, or just putting a few restaurants here. What I'd like to see is something that yes, celebrates, I still want the pond and I think that's in there. But I want to see I'd like to see something that celebrates how the how Broomfield has managed, and it's been a fight, to keep our identity as a small hometown place, that's a great place to to raise a family, retire, all of that on where we can have those connections again, because we're in danger we're very much in danger of losing that and so that's kind of where I'm how I'm approaching this is how does the how does the plan, and the traffic, the pedestrian traffic, and the architecture, and the seating, how, I don't know how to do it, but how can all that work together to help us

Annie Lessem 44:39

come together?

Elizabeth Law-Evans 44:40

Well, not just come together, but to to revitalize that that hometown feeling. Where you know, when I go to the when I go to the grocery store, you know, there are times when it's hard to get out of the grocery store because I see three people I know and we just have to talk. I want that kind of feeling at this at this Civic Center. So that's what But this isn't my interview.

Robert Law 45:01

Well, no, I'd say. That's very, very clear thinking. I think that that's exactly right. I think that what that would be

Annie Lessem 45:13

any good stories you want to tell? We can end up with a really good story.

Robert Law 45:20

Well,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 45:21

Wow, good story.

Robert Law 45:26

With me, it's always music. Because let me tell you the story. I was raised as a little boy out in eastern Colorado. And we had a terrific anyway, I was given a tuba. E flat tuba when I was seven. And I've been playing a tuba since then. And I lived this is out in eastern Colorado, and lived and I struggled with this tuba passed this one house. And this lady, it was just a couple of, well, three blocks, but I'd struggle with this tuba. And one day, this lady said, I, I hate to see you you struggling with that tuba, I want to give you a baby buggy to put the tuba in. And she laughed. And she did. She gave me an old baby buggy. I put the tuba and it really worked pretty good. You put the tuba in, and it's got wheels. And she laughed every time I went past her for years and years and years.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 46:47

And this so the bookend to that story is every Tuesday afternoon, where do you go, and what do you do?

Robert Law 46:54

I play music

Annie Lessem 46:56

Where?

Robert Law 46:57

At the senior center?

Annie Lessem 47:01

And you just play? Or do you have a band? Couple guys?

Robert Law 47:05

Now let me explain another thing to you. I'm legally blind. And when I started in was music. Everybody starts by reading music, right. But I also since I was in Broomfield, I joined a barber shop, club. And there were 35 guys that met every once a week, Tuesday night, yeah. I think it was Tuesday night. And I did that for 32 years. And in barber shop, they do terrific close harmony, thinking or singing one guy saves the lead. Another guy thinks a tenor above it. Sings a baritone below. And the guy that has a beautiful progression. He sings bass, and it's there four guys. And I sang in that for 32 years. In barbershop harmony,

Annie Lessem 48:15  
which part where you

Robert Law 48:16  
baritone I do not have a I can reach tenor a little bit and lead, it would be possible. Baritone is fine, bass I can't do. So after in my in my case, after I sang for 32 years with those people. And I lost my eyesight and I couldn't drive down there. It was 20 miles down around Denver. And so I couldn't get down there. And

Elizabeth Law-Evans 48:51  
so you picked up your tuba again.

Robert Law 48:53  
That's right, I played up tuba. And what I had learned is that I heard all the chords all the time. If you sing anything, I can sing harmony to it.

Annie Lessem 49:05  
Wow.

Robert Law 49:06  
Anything you can say anything.

Annie Lessem 49:08  
That's amazing. I can't sing anything.

Robert Law 49:11  
You mean you don't know one song, Row, Row Row Your Boat.

Annie Lessem 49:15  
So I'm gonna tell you a story about me. Like I said, I grew up where I could hear the marching band. And so I to me that I love fall. So when I was living in Texas, I wasn't living near the high school. And one day I thought it was like that's a marching band. Why am I hearing the marching? I don't live near the high school maybe the wind's blowing it was a guy putting a roof on his house. That's how tone deaf I am, that air hammer right putting the roof on top, I thought that was the marching band.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 49:55  
There you go.

Annie Lessem 49:55  
There you go. So so no singing from me

Elizabeth Law-Evans 50:00

So every Tuesday afternoon, we take him either his wife or one of us take him over. And sometimes there's usually Stu or one or two other guys who comes in play. But you've been doing that now for 15 to 20 years again.

Robert Law 50:13

Oh no, more than that

Elizabeth Law-Evans 50:14

Yeah. Okay. Longer than that.

Annie Lessem 50:15

Wow.

Robert Law 50:17

See, she's been here,.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 50:19

A year. That's right. That's right. So yeah,

Robert Law 50:21

it's been about 27 years,

Annie Lessem 50:25

you've been singing at the Senior Center,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 50:27

Playing horn

Annie Lessem 50:28

or playing horn at the senior center

Robert Law 50:30

Now I'm singing the parts. Let's see, I heard all totally I heard after saying barbershop I hear all the parts. And now I play them through a mouthpiece. I mean, you hear them the same. And that's why I say if you if you sang a song, I can sing harmony to it.

Annie Lessem 50:49

I'm not gonna sing a song . But now I need a story from Liz

Robert Law 50:53

Okay,

Elizabeth Law-Evans 50:54



A story from me. So here's kind of a recent story, when City Council was talking about how to stage the deconstruction and reconstruction of the BCC, and how that affected the Senior Center, I will admit that I had in the back of my head, Bob's got to have a place to go play his horn every Tuesday afternoon. So whatever we do, we have to keep something open for Dad and for everybody else. And it worked out. Everybody needed a place. And everyone wanted a place like that where we could hold some of the classes that have been temporarily displaced. So Senior Center is a very busy place these days, but that was in the back of my head is I've got to make sure that dad's got a place to go Tuesday afternoons to play his horn.

Annie Lessem 51:42

Good. Thank you guys.

Elizabeth Law-Evans 51:45

Thank you Annie

Annie Lessem 51:45

This is great. I'm gonna flip this off. If I can figure out how the last time I tried to flip it off. I couldn't figure out how you did it. Ah hah!

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