

(Tape #1010: Interview with Bill Moon, August 9, 1971.)

(The first of the tape was very muddled. Couldn't make it out.)

Let's see, what is your full name? It's just William Moon. No middle name? No, they didn't have any then, I guess. See I'm 88...I'll be 89 in January. I hope I live to be that well and still remember things, you know. Yeah. Well, I'm in pretty good shape, but I have been better. You see, we moved here from Louisville, my folks did, when I was about six years old. Part of this house over here of my brothers was moved from Louisville. The first house here in town was part of this one across the street and then there was a tent down there where the Ham's grocery is. My folks moved a part of that house from Louisville. I was looking through the old Lafayette newspaper. I came across the part where your family moved to Lafayette, then later on I found where you had your seventh or eighth birthday and they had a big party for you. Yeah. Well, I remember the night Albert was born, or the day rather, the doctor used to come...Dr. Anbrook...used to come from Boulder and it was snowing (it was on the 26th of January) and he was driving around asking, "Where does Walter Moon live?" I saw him so I went out and said, "Here's where he lives." So he tied his horse up and came on in the house and delivered Albert, see. Just across the street where your grandmother lives, that used to be all farm land and there were some hay stacks there Millers down there owned it, you know. The cattle would get around these stacks and raise the devil at night. There were men from the Simpson Mine, you know where it used to be, well, anyhow, they was boarding with my folks and then the folks added to, you know, and they had, oh, let's see, there was five rooms upstairs and about the same downstairs where they used to keep boarders. And then they built another little shack out in the yard there for a wash house, you know, so they could take a bath. The men used to either ride horse and buggy from Louisville or walk from Louisville to

work here in this mine until they got this C & S Railroad in---this spur from Louisville.

Then from Cleveland south it was mostly Millers place then? Well, you see, Millers owned all of this and they're the ones who started the town, incorporated, you know, and sold the lots. Dad used to own three lots here and two over there. He used to own the lot where the library is and the one next. He owned the five lots right in there. He bought them. I guess they were cheap, you know, so he bought them up. Yeah, they were plenty cheap. I saw some of the prices. And then later on, a*butcher by the name of Galen VanVauxenburg talked to dad, and dad's the one who built this place for him so he could run his meat market, you know, and the little store. I guess he couldn't make a go of it and dad had to take it over and that's how he got into the butcher business and as I grew up, well, I was about 15, I had to stand on a box...well, you know these blocks that they cut the meat on, they are round or square, they're square now mostly...any-how I'd have to stand on a box to be able to be high enough to reach to cut. I was about 15 years old, that's when I started cutting meat. Later on, I think your dad built some fences back there and made a corral. Oh, yes, we used to have a corral and he built a large ice house. You see, they used to put up their own ice. And Alf Peterson, he used to be up here where the big trailer court is now, you know, he had a little lake there and, oh, the ice would get maybe 8 or 12 inches thick in the winter. About in February was when he'd put up the ice. On Baseline? Yeah. He'd cut it there and haul it down by horse and wagon. Gee, didn't it melt? Well, you see, there were double boards on the sides and they would fill that full of sawdust. I forget, there used to be some saw mill around, it was over around Boulder somewhere, and they used to haul the sawdust in by the wagon-load and put it in and then cover the ice with it. It would hold up good, you know. They

covered it with the sawdust and it would make it cool in there, you know., then they'd take it out of that ice house and put it in the ice box in the meat market, you see. Did you use all the ice or did you sell some? Yes, we used to use all of it and then have to buy some artificial ice from, I think we got it over at Longmont, if I remember right. I'm pretty sure that's where he hauled it from...Longmont. And then he finally got an ammonia freezing outfit. They put a big tank in the top of the ice box where we used to put the ice and then we'd have to run a machine or ammonia and a salt solution of water in this big tank. But that didn't prove a success. You take pork, especially, it would give it a funny taste, I don't know, of some darn thing. Of course, after Albert got bigger and we used to keep cows, well, we used to keep two cows pretty near all the time and six or eight horses for the work, you know, to go after cattle and teams, single drivers, and he kept increasing and we finally got two meat wagons. He used to run one of them to Louisville and Superior and the other one would go to Marshall and around through south Boulder. The one that went to Marshall went every other day and the one that went to Louisville went every day. He had several men working for him and Albert and I. Well, Albert wasn't old enough. I'd go to school but I didn't know if I'd get to stay there until noon if I went in the morning or whether he'd send up for me.

You see, when Mrs. Miller laid the plot for the town on this side of the public highway up here they wasn't allowed to sell or dispose of liquor of any kind and it was right in the deed. So that's how all the saloons got on the other side of the highway up here where they're at now, you know. They couldn't get over here. But I think they've started handling 3.2 on this side. I think there are several on this side now that handles, I think, 3.2. I think if they'd have fought it they could have got 5, but they were all satisfied up there. There used to be, oh, three to five saloons up there. That's what they used to call them. Now they call them bars or

taverns or something else. Did they have the old-fashioned swinging doors? What? The swinging doors? Oh, yeah. Well, you'd go in, you know, and then the swinging doors were back a-ways, you know, and you'd have to go through them to get into the bar room. Did they have the old foot rail and big mirror? Yeah, yeah, yeah, and beer tables, and card tables, you know. I don't think they had the dancing girls, did they? Oh, no. No, they never got that far advanced. It sounds like fun.

Of course, when I first went to school...out here at Shady Grove...you know, that's out about two miles (I think negroes own it now) we used to have to walk from here out there. Sometimes we'd have to wade through the creek down there, sometimes there'd be a lot of water and sometimes there wouldn't. Was that a county school, or something? Well, I guess you'd call it a country school more or less because there was no school here in town at all. Then they finally got one and it was over here on Cleveland Street, oh, it was down about the 400 block on the far end in there they rented a house and that's where we went to school. The teacher, her name was Mrs. Scott. She used to teach school and he ran the lumber yard for the McAlister outfit there. He ran it or he just worked there? What? He was manager or...? Yeah, he was sort of the manager for this McAlister company, see.

Well, and then after they got the railroad through, they put kind of a... oh, a little spur in for the...there used to be a train---an engine, a baggage car, and a coach---and they used to back in beside of us and they'd stay here overnight and they'd pick up the people here that wanted to go to Denver or Boulder...they'd...they'd get...they had a little depot down just a little ways, down back of...oh, below Everett West's about a block. The depot was in there and they'd back in down there and you'd get on and they'd take you out here to...oh, it's near where the old Monarch mine used to be...they called it the Louisville Junction...the main line went through there and they'd meet this train going to Denver, or coming from the north, you know, into Denver. I think they'd go up twice a day. If you had to go to Denver, you left here in the morning and you'd go out as far as Louisville Junction and you'd get that train that was going into Denver and then

at night, oh, maybe around...well, from 3:00 to 5:00 o'clock, I wouldn't say for sure which, they'd be going back north, you boarded there and they'd stop at the Louisville Junction if you had to come to Lafayette or Louisville and then you'd come back over here on the spur. And then later on they finally got an electric car that used to run to Boulder. That was just, oh, more or less like a street car, see. I read in the paper that they were planning such a thing, but I didn't know if they did it or not. Yeah, it was kind of a trolley car and I know we used to... there were lots of times we'd go...when we was young, we'd go to Denver to a show, we'd have to catch that trolley and we'd leave our horse and buggy in Louisville so we could drive home. It wouldn't come down here. It went...I'm pretty sure it went...Boulder was as far as it went. Where was the depot for that? Over at Louisville or here? It started here and went to Louisville? No, you would have probably to drive over to Louisville and catch the trolley there, see. It didn't back down in here because, I guess, they didn't have it equipped for it. You'd have to put your horse in the livery stable over there and get it out when you came home at night, see? The depot was right where it is over at Louisville, where it's always been. It's right in the same place yet. You mean it followed the same tracks as the railroad? Yeah. It was an old steam train at that time at that time. Oh, they retired the train and put on the electric? Yeah, that's for...but the freight used to go through at different times. Oh. With a string of cars.

I was born in Louisville. That's where I was born and I haven't got very far away since. Oh, I think it's a pretty nice town to stay in. Yeah. Albert was born here. I had two sisters, but...there's one of them I saw, but Albert never saw either one of them. They passed away before...and they were buried out near where Superior is now, up on a big hill there. The folks finally moved them up here to this cemetery.

Did you do anything besides butchering? Me? Oh, yes, I worked in stores, see. I worked in butchering stores all my life...very little....I have worked some around the mines but not to a big extent, because I didn't care too much for it. I never cared for working down below. I don't think I'd like it

either. No, no. When you go down that hole you're just flirting with so much today, you know, your life. I've worked around different places. I've worked in Sterling, Estes Park, up in Rock Springs....I went up there one winter. My brother-in-law got me to go up there. But I couldn't live up there, it didn't pay off. I worked in Estes Park all one summer and Mr. Boyd wanted me to stay up there with him but the rent was too high and he wasn't paying enough wages and the winters... they wasn't like they are now. When we got snow...well, when we got snow here in the early days it came early and I've seen it, oh, gee whiz, get two or three feet deep and if the wind would blow it would drift. I know one time we had a...after I built this house...we had a tunnel out here to get to the road and this...out here they had...Joneses used to have a livery stable right next to...and they had four horses, I think, on a half a ton of coal and they were taking it around and giving it to people who were out of coal, you know. during this heavy snow. A lot of the older people have mentioned that the winters have gotten milder. Yeah, very much. They are all together different. We used to go sleigh riding, you know; pulled by horses. We built one, Albert and I, and it was, oh, I'd say, four by six or eight, something like that. We took some 2 x 8's or 10's for the runners and then built a box on it and we fixed it up so we could hitch two horses to it and we used to go out and have parties, you know---put some straw in it and cover up with some blankets and go bumming around. We wouldn't go very far. If you got a mile or two away...just walking along with the horses, you'd think it was a great treat. That sounds like a lot of cold fun there. Yeah, but we enjoyed it, you know. And skating...gee whiz, you could skate...well, a bunch of us would go out to some of these lakes up close here and we'd build a bonfire and have a lunch, you know, put on the coffee and skate awhile and just horse around. But we didn't have any cars, we couldn't get very far away. And then they got the dance hall over here on the corner where the phone office is. The United Mine Workers built that. I don't know whether you...was that gone?...you don't remember that, do you? No, they tore that down. Oh, we used to have some good times there.

Do you remember any of the Miller family? Oh, yes, Yeah, let's see... there was Jake, as we used to call him, that's James B. Miller, he was the one in the bank here. And there was Charley ...and George...let's see, there was Charley, George, and Jake. Then there was another one...one of them got killed down here at the, oh, what was it?...the Strathmore Mine. And then Frank, he was the son of George, see, and a brother of Ralph. Do you remember anything about Mary? Mary E. Miller? Oh, yes. What was she like? Oh, she was a short, chunky lady. She wasn't too tall, but as near as I can remember she was kind of chunky. But she was very nice and she was all prohibition. And she was a very nice lady. They used to live, uh,...you know where Gordon's office is....in that block only on the other end. Who is that old fellow who owns that now? I forgot, but she lived there after they left the ranch. Now Lafayette Miller, that's her husband, I don't remember very much about him. And then they had a daughter by the name of May, I know, because I was sweet on her. She passed away when she was young. We used to go down to the Millers quite a bit when we was kids. We'd go down there to mess around and they was always.... Now, Charley, he was a very good friend of mine, he used to come to the house there, and I think, if I remember right, he used to own that land up here where the grade school is and all that. Then Cornelius bought a bunch of it and he planted a lot of fruit trees. That's right back of the bank. There are buildings in there now but that used to be...the town seemed to build all on this side but then they worked over on the other side and they just kept a-going that way.

The first water system we got in here was a wood pipe that had a kind of like a bar hoop around it and then tarred. I think most of it is in the ground yet, you know, when they put the cast pipes in they never took them out, they just more or less got away from them because it cost a whole lot to take them out. Henry Mathias was telling me about that and how every once in a while they come across one. Yeah, and the lake used to be up here by Petersons, I guess where that old fairgrounds is, up there where they have the horses and one thing and another. There used to be a lake there and then they built one, well, the dike

was just on the west side of it. And I thought it was kind of funny, they...to keep it from washing they boarded all this dike up on the water side, you know, that would be on the west side, so it wouldn't wash the dike out, you know, the waves coming in. And they had a filter in up there, oh, it was about as big as, oh, it wasn't as big as this room...it might have been, but it was all a big filter and the water used to come through that, you know. How they used to treat it I don't know or what they done to it...I never studied it that much, but there was a round filter there and then it would come down town. The water would come in what they called the Goodhue ditch up there and they had those two lakes as a kind of reserve.

Do you remember anything of the fire company here? Fire trucks? Oh, yeah. The one we used to pull, the two wheeler? Oh, yeah. Well, they used to keep...they used to be over here back of the telephone office. George B. Cannan used to have a barn there...he had a horse and his barn was on the north side of it. The other place is where he used to keep his buggies. The town got this bottom part to keep the hose cart in and upstairs, well, I think their hired man used to sleep in this place first, anyhow the town got it and they used to keep him in there and on this side they had that big fire bell on a, oh, what would you call it? a derrick? a big timber up in the air. That's what you'd ring with two ropes in case of fire, you know. Was it that same bell that's up at the fire station now? Yeah, I think it was. Anyhow, we used to have to pull that during like, oh, 4th of July or Labor Day, or something, they'd have...either Louisville or Lafayette or Erie would have a big time, you know, and they'd have these hose races. There'd be, let's see, four, five...seven...eleven men on it, you know, and they'd pull this cart and make connections and get water and be timed. I know I used to run with them quite often. Jackie Gordon and I used to run together on the first swing. Did they have sort of a uniform? The firemen? No, but they were sure rough buckers when you joined them. They used to have good times and they'd have celebrating in the Union Hall, you know, and they'd have a big feast. They'd slip a keg of beer or

something in for them that wanted it. Us fellows who didn't want it, we didn't have to take it but we'd have lots of stuff to eat and there'd be a big dance. They'd have a good time of it...about once a year or so. I heard maybe they had an initiation for new members. Yeah, they did. Oh, boy, they used to have some old rubbers (that you slip over your shoes, you know) and they had them attached to a 4- or 6-volt battery, one of those small batteries, you know, and they'd get them wet. They called them the golden slippers and they'd put them on and give them a little twist, you know....and, jiminy krauts....some of them couldn't take it and some could, you know. Being wet that would give them a shock. Oh, I've seen some awful times. Finally they got a big cable in the Union Hall up here that reached from one end to the other and they got a pulley with a roller on it and they'd put a belt on you, put you up there, and as you'd go by, they'd have a paddle and give it to you. It was rough...they got too darn rough. Ah, some of them would get a little drink and they were feeling too good, you know, and they wouldn't stop to think what they was doing. They had to cut that out. They pretty near had some good fights over it.

How many people did you go to school with? Up here? Oh, I wouldn't like to say. There wasn't too many, though. They didn't have any too large classes, but they had so many rooms....I would say, just in the old school house....I know, it was an old brick school house, you know, and it had coal stoves and we'd have to go out...the teacher would pick somebody to go out to the coal house and pick up a bucket of coal and we'd have to build up the fire. If we wanted to get out of school, we'd put some snow in the bucket of coal, you know, and make it smoke and then we'd get to go home. Who paid for the teachers? Who did? Well, I guess the county, as far as I know. My dad, he was on the school board at one time, but I don't know, I don't remember him ever saying, but I imagine it was the county. I guess that's who pays them now, isn't it. Oh, I don't know. It comes out of the taxes, I know, we pay for it one way or another. What did you wear to school, when you were smaller? What did I learn? No, what did you wear. Blue jeans or what?

Oh, just any old way, just as long as it was....Oh, the kids always tried to look neat and clean but they wasn't like they are now, you know, having different things to wear. It would be, you know, maybe overalls and shirt and a jacket, if it was cold, or during the summer just go as you were. But now, you take the girls, for instance, they'd go in, I suppose, a calico dress or whatever they happened to have. But now they have to have these fancy do-funnies on, you know. They didn't holler about your hair being too long or short, because we used to keep it, oh, you know, neat and clean. We used to get a hair cut and shave for 50¢.but now it's a dollar if the barber shaves you and, what is it? \$2.50 for a haircut. And they don't think nothing of long hair now. A lot of them seem to like it....raising a mustach or a beard, the young fellows....they didn't used to do that. Then when we took our bath there for a long time until they got a good system in here, we had to take it in a washtub., not in a bathtub or shower or anything like that. You had to get screwed around in the washtub and take it the best way you could.

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out on the diamond. We played ball out there most of the times what would be around, say, noon, and mother would come and call Albert and I and Charley Lalley used to be around us and she'd tell us to come eat our dinner and maybe there would be two or three more and we'd say, "Well, Mother can we bring so-and-so in?" and she would say, "Yeah, come in, all of you." And she would setshe'd maybe have six of eight of us sitting around the table there. And you take like Henry Mathias, I'm sure he and, I think, Bill his brother, and Harriett and Dan Sherratt and Old Man Sherratt, they pretty nearly lived over at the folks. That was just like home to them. They had no other place to go and Dad and Mother was good to them as long as they behaved and when they didn't, they'd call them down just as soon as they would Albert or I.

We used to have...we got two prairie dogs, and who was it?..Charley Lalley was out there and one time he kicked one of them and, you know, that little burger

he didn't forget it. Charley was out there and he was catcher and he reached up and he got Charley by the leg and he bit a chunk out. Charley used to have more kick out of that. He used to say he had the mark to show where he bit him. He'd come in the house and he'd sit up by Dad. Dad used to sit here at the end of the table and Dad would reach over and get a cracker and this old Billy, as we called the prairie dog would sit just like a little monkey with that cracker in his paws and he'd sit there and eat it about mealtime. They had a couple of holes out in the yard and the two of them would go out there and stay at night. They'd get out, if a stranger came around, and bark like a dog. But we had them tamed so that they used to come in the house and Dad would feed them. They'd always sit down by him. You don't see many of them around any more. No, there are a few places outside of town. Who was it, I was just talking to somebody recently and I asked if there were any prairie dog towns around any more and they said they hadn't seen one for sometime. I don't know how it came up, but somebody I was talking to. Out east here, you know, across the creek it was full of them. Well, there's a small town out there now. Where is it...on the other side? It's on the other side of Coal Creek, out east, south of the bridge, and back in some of the farmland there, there is a pretty good sized town, I suppose. I haven't seen a wild prairie dog out on the prairie for a long time. You see them in the zoos and one place or another. Well, most of the ground has been plowed up. Well, they need grazing land, I guess. I think Lynn Lawson used to own some down in there, I know, well, it's between Baseline and Erie, in there somewhere. I've forgotten...it's changed hands. I see this gun club's got quite a name and this motorcycle place down here around... what is it?...Standard Mine, isn't it. You can hear them clear up town. Have you ever noticed them? Yeah, on Sundays. They're just like a swarm of bees.

All the roads in town were dirt, weren't they? When did they finally pave them? What, the streets? Oh, I don't know...they put some...they used to put a lot of red ash, you know, and they'd get it at these mine dumps, you know, and they'd haul it up on the streets. Now you take right out here, this used

to be a very steep hill. I bet down in there, well, from Roberts store down, there was quite a low spot in there and they filled that in, because we used to get out here with a...did you ever see one of these bicycles with a big high wheel and a little one on the back?...we'd ride them down this hill and, jiminy krauts, we would take some spills. You'd get to going down there like the devil. You couldn't guide it, you know. And you'd go down here...Fred Stubbs...one night up here at the dance...the curfew...somebody had a fire down here some place and Fred Stubbs and I we went back and got the cart and started down...got going down this hill, you know, we were on the tongue. They had a tongue with a piece across, and I bet you we was stepping from here to the door going down that hill and we couldn't get out and if we had fell down it would have been too bad for us...that damn cart would have run over us. We got started down that hill, we thought somebody would catch on the back to help hold us back, but I guess we was going too fast for them. Well, we was going too fast for ourselves but we couldn't help it....we had to stay in there.

Were there any special activities, you know, on holidays, 4th of July and things like that? Around here? Yeah. Well, you take the towns would kind of...maybe Louisville would have the 4th of July, well, the Labor Day celebration would be probably here, you know, or vice versa, you know. These three towns used to kind of work together. Well, Louisville and Lafayette more so than Erie. I don't know, Erie didn't seem to take a fancy to it much. I don't think they had the water system for the hose race and things. Oh, there'd be a ball game, you know, and the hose race and foot racing and, oh, different things like that would go on. As far as horses and things like bucking broncos and anything like that, they didn't go too much for it. And then at night they'd have a big dance, you know. One year the Odd Fellows had a, well, it was a kind of an association...Northern... what was it...Poudre Valley Association, they called it. It was from here on north. They ran a special train in here for this. Well, there was about 1500 people here in town that day. Oh, and talk about crowds, you know! It was something they couldn't handle. There wasn't many halls like where Gambles was, you

know, there was that and the Union Hall and a couple of churches. Everything was open, you know. Then they were serving meals, the churches mostly were serving meals to the crowd. Oh, they had a great time and the lodges put on the degree work and bands... But I think that was about as large a crowd as I've ever seen in Lafayette.. They came all the way down from Windsor and Fort Collins, you know. They had the tracks filled down here with a big special train coming from the north. It was quite a day for them. There were a lot of them up to the saloons, you know. Do you remember what year this was, approximately? No, I do not to be honest with you. This is the first time I've thought about that for some time. Well, maybe I can dig it up in the papers, you know. You might run across it. I'm sure they called it the Poudre Valley Association. It was quite a....they claimed there were about 1500 people here, so you know that would be quite a crowd for this town to handle. I'll keep my eye open for it there.

Were all the houses wood? Or some of them brick or stone? Well, very few have been brick. Now, let's see there's one up there where Joe Rodrick lives, see, and right over here Nobles built where Gibney lives, she works down to the hub? store, and then there was this place where Ham was. See, that was a two-story---there was a store down below and rooms and offices upstairs. For a long time....who was it? Broomfields, I think, used to run the boarding house there and their sleeping quarters were upstairs on the back and in the front there was several offices...oh, there was a dentist up there, and a kind of a...oh, I'd say a real estate...they handled property and stuff. Who else was up there?...I think there was a doctor up there. I know the dentist was up there. But, you take all three of them, they had a....and underneath the coal has been taken out, you know. They had to get rails, light rails from the railroad to put up, I think Gibneys over here, and Joe Rodricks up here----now, who built that? Sid Pascal and Bill Noble built that. Yorks Cannon built this building where Ham was. They tore that top part down. I guess that's before your time too, ain't it? Yes. Later on, there was nobody up there and the windows got broken out and all and, oh my God, talk

about pigeons----the pigeons took over up there. You could go up in there, you know, and you'd see pigeons go every which way. A lot of people kept pigeons, didn't they? Oh, yes. I know over in our old barn that used to be right across the alley here, after the folks had passed away, we had the place and I used to go over there and get pigeons for my wife and I. Well, I got hooked up with a market in Denver that would take three dozen pretty near every week, you know. I never fed them anything... the elevators....there used down here and another one down back of the A & W, down in there someplace it used to be....and I used to get 12½¢ a piece for the pigeons. They'd come out....they was making hog serum and would test them. They'd give them this test and if they survived they turned them loose, you know, there in Denver and if it killed them, you know, if there was something in there that wasn't right. They were using them as guinea pigs. They used to come out here from Denver and get them and they'd write us a letter that they'd be out and they'd want so many, you know, and we'd go over there with a flash light and catch them. We never ran out of pigeons. There was always plenty and we never fed them...they fed themselves. So, all we got out of it was what we could, you know. We had a big old barn over there with a hay loft and that's where they was, you know, and jiminy krauts, they were dirty burgers. Why aren't there so many today? Oh, I don't know. They killed them off around here, you know. They used to shoot them up around the school house there and people poisoned them to get rid of them. I don't know why. And then they used to have, instead of shooting these clay birds like they do out east here, you know. They've got a machine that throws a black cup, kind of, that's a clay bird, they call it. They used to get these pigeons and put them off. They had a little box with a long string to it and they'd jerk the string, the box would collapse, and the pigeon would take off, then they'd shoot at them, you know. But, I don't know whether the humane got after them for that or it just kind of died out. It used to be great sport. It would give them a chance, you know. They'd have one rope to open this box so it would collapse and then they'd have another one with a rag on it near it so they could pull that one to shake the rag and scare the

pigeon. Some of them were smart, though, they'd just go the opposite way so they wouldn't get a very good shot at them.

Oh, we used to have baseball games pretty near every Sunday morning, or Sunday afternoon. They'd come in on this train, you know, from Louisville and then go back. We'd have to pay their fare out here and give them their dinner. We'd get a bunch from Denver, Louisville, or Erie or maybe Longmont. And I know we used to drive up to Longmont, Loveland, Berthoud. We'd go in a wagon, you know, a lumber wagon. We'd all get in a lumber wagon, you know, and it would take us, oh, several hours to get there with a team of horses, you know. We didn't have the cars. We'd be gone pretty near all day and sometimes we wouldn't get home till later. But that's the way we got out transportation. It was nothing to walk over to Louisville. We'd start up the railroad track, you know, and oh, maybe, in a half hour we'd be there. We didn't think nothing of that. But now, you're over there in about five minutes.

Who brought the first car to Lafayette? I think it was the banker in the First National Bank. Now what was his name? It was either him or Bill Belnow. Bill had, I think it was an old Reo or something like that. I know it was a real curiosity. And they had....I don't know, I think it washe was in the bank down here. He drove up with that and, boy, you'd have thought he was Little Lord Fauntleroy. I think it was a Reo. It was just a kind of open car. It wasn't anything like we've got now. It was just one of them old....setting like on a buckboard. An old horseless carriage, huh? Yeah. You wouldn't happen to know what year? Bless your heart, no, I wouldn't. I think it was one of the bankers down there. It wasn't Miller, I know. It was one down at the First National. Oh, the crows gathered around.

I know, one night us kids was all congregated around, didn't know what to do, I guess, and we were messing around and an old fellow down here by the name of Jimmy Carr came up town with an old horse. I believe I could have out-run it. And we got to kidding him. He was telling us that it was a race horse. So, we got

to...you know how kids are...we got to telling him how to fix it up. We told him he ought to get a blanket for it and get a pair of rubber boots and put them on his front feet. The next time he came up town he had a blanket on that horse and he had a pair of rubber boots, he had them tied on, you know. And here he came clopping up the street. I don't know whether he was off a little bit or what but we sure got a kick out of it and I think we could have out-run the horse ourselves.. He was nothing but (poor old horse) I guess he was a rack of bones.

And then there used to be, oh, there were four or five donkeys, burrows, you know, over at Erie. A fellow used to have them over there and it seemed like every....oh, like in the fall...the buggers would come over here and us kids would catch them and we'd....well, that would be our donkey until this fellow would come after them, you know. Some of the bucked and some of them didn't. We had a great time with them. We'd keep them around and we'd go swipe hay from the Millers over here to feed the donkeys---robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Halloweens were a lot of fun, weren't they? Oh, yeah. Yeah. We used to go around dumping the toilets. There was one boy got....I think it was up back of the school house they had the double toilets, you know, he got around on the... there was a bunch of them on the back or the front....I don't know. Anyway, they were pushing and he happened to be on the other side and it hit him and killed him. Some of them used to pull some dirty tricks, you know, they'd maybe dig a hole here....maybe I'd better not say this. Don't incriminate yourself. They can guess the rest of it. Yeah. Leave it to the imagination. Yeah. Oh, well, lots of times they'd have parties, you know, and go diving for apples and, oh, such as that. We didn't have much to do, but we got quite a kick out of having a party, you know, dress up a little bit, put on some old clothes. One year here, well, this hasn't been long ago, they went out here someplace, a bunch of them, and got a bunch of pumpkins and rolled them down the street. My golly, you ought to have seen the pumpkins out here. I believe the town pretty near got a truck load of them. They'd start them here, this is a pretty steep hill, and they'd get out here, then they'd

put on extra cops, but they couldn't keep up with the kids. I don't think maybe they tried too hard. I think that goes on today and nobody gets too worried unless something is broken or something.

This here, you know, used to be the Congregational Church. We went to Sunday School there and we used to go to church, all of us kids. We had, over in that southeast corner, that's where our class was. We'd get in there and we'd have a nice Sunday School class and we'd have parties among ourselves, you know. Mrs. Hicks, or Miss Hicks it was then, was our teacher at school for some of us and our Sunday School teacher also. We all thought she was very nice. She was very... she fixed up things, you know, planned things for us to have a good time. She was very well thought of. Who was it? It was one of the boys that we ran around with would kind of take care of the furnace down there so one night there was three or four of us and we didn't know what to do so we decided we'd get a corn popper and some popcorn and go down in the basement, you know, and pop some corn. There was a nice warm fire down there so we gets the popper and the corn and sneaks down there. The odor, you know, comes up through the furnace and somebody came and they was looking down there and they called, "What are you doing down here?" We said, "Oh, just popping some corn." They thought the place was afire and we were just sitting down there having a good time. They were having prayer meeting upstairs, I think, and we was down there popping corn. We wasn't bothering anybody. It was cold outside so we had to go some place.

Were there any churches in town that aren't here now? Well, the Congregational and, oh, there used to be one they called the "holy rollers". It used to be where Ham is now there used to be a partition running, oh, let's see, north and south, and there was...used to hold their church in there. Us kids used to go there and they'd run us out. They'd get to jumping around there like a lot of monkeys or something. I don't know, it might be their religion but we got quite a kick out of it. The Methodist used to be where Ship...or Shop...what's his

name? Schleppe. Where he lives. And then they built over there, see. Well, the Catholic church used to be over there and then they built a new one. No, I don't think there.....as near as I can remember they used to...oh, before they got the churches, they used to kind of go to one another's houses, that's the church people, you know, and have their services there until they got money enough to..... But Mrs. Miller, see, she furnished all these fancy windows here in the library. On this side where that kind of a ribbon is in the glass there she had Lafayette Miller, when he was born and, if I remember, when he passed away and on either side, see, there are three windows there, he was in the middle and on either side....I don't remember now whether Mrs. Miller, Mary E. Miller, had her name on one side...I don't think she did. I think Lafayette Miller was the only one. Who was it? Danny's wife...Danny Evans' wife, she was kind of head of the Pillar of Fire (phone ringing) Excuse me.....

We used to have a town marshall, didn't we? Oh, yeah, yeah. We had some dillies. We had one marshall by the name of Lemmon and he was a...he'd chase us kids home before dark. He was an ornery bugger. We used to play tricks on him. We'd run down here, you know, on this next corner, he'd see us and he'd come down there and look for us and we'd come up the alley, you know. So we fooled him one night, we got him to come after us and come up the alley. We stretched a wire across out here (it was dark, you know) and he got up there and hit that wire and fell down. He got up and if he could have caught us kids that night he would have killed us. Yeah, he'd chase you home. I heard some of them had a nickname of some character like "Lone Ranger". Yeah. Then Fred Stubbs, he was marshall, and George Stubbs...oh, we had some good ones and some good-for-nothings. But he was the orneriest devil. He was so hard on us kids. He thought we ought to be in bed by 8:00, I guess, I don't know. Did they have a curfew then? Yeah, at 8:00 they used to ring that old fire bell, you know, eight times and then if he did catch you out on the street after that he would really raise the devil with you. But now, I don't know what time the curfew is...it's 10:00 or 11:00, isn't

it? Something like that. I don't believe some of them know when it is. It doesn't seem to make much difference to some people, but, I don't know....there's nothing to do out on the streets for me so.... Me either. I don't know how some of them run around so late. They just don't want to go home. No. Well, they've got every-think now. They've got the television, we didn't have that. Over here where the old show was, as near as I can remember, the first show they had over there was in a big tent. Two brothers....one of them was a, I think he was a hunchback...anyway, he was a cripple....two brothers started that over there. And then they finally put up a building and, I think....Pile...he used to live up here next to where Frank has his tavern and restaurant, you know, in that big house in there.

Frank Morrow? Yeah. I think that's where he used to live. Then they got a piano. That was the music, you know. Before there was no music, there was just the picture. That used to go over good. Then they got started selling popcorn and candy and stuff and then they finally came to the other....the music, you know.. But all they had at first was the piano player because I think Shep Woods' daughter, if I remember right, she used to play the piano and he was doing something. I don't know, it was a kind of family affair. That was just more or less on a slide, I guess you'd call it. Some darn thing. Was it always named the LaFa Theater? No. Who was it? Somebody got that and remodeled it and went after a new name and, I think, wasn't it Mrs. Waneka down here, well, it would be Chuck's mother, yeah, I think she was the one who won the prize for the name. They asked for names, you know, and the one that they chose....and I think that she's the one, if I remember right, that won. No, but that first was just a building and they put chicken wire on and stucco and then they put the tin on or vice versa. I forget just how they did work it. But they'd just keep patching it and patching it. I was talking to Houser, oh, maybe a year or two ago, and when he.....

(End of tape)



Albert Moon

William
~~Walter~~ Moon

W.W. Moon

E. Elizabeth (Perry)

Walter Warren Moon - Mason

Mason

Billy Moon...

(CONT. FROM PAGE 11)

Billy has a "kid brother" who is 87 and "he walks like an old man," said Moon demonstrating the stooped walk, leaning on a make-believe cane.

"When we go out for a walk together I tell him to straighten up and walk like a man," said the sprightly gentleman. "And he don't like it at all when I introduce him as my older brother, Albert."

Those Yesterdays

Moon recalled with a smile how life once was in town. "When the train used to come from Denver on the way to Meadow Park, there were people all over the place. My father would make a big pot of coffee and we'd take lunch down there. The sand was so deep you couldn't run in it."

As Moon saw the town grow, he also saw it nearly destroyed more than once by fire. He particularly recalls fires which burned out the whole town block of East Simpson Street, closing many businesses.

"The livery stable burned and so did the drug store," said Moon.

Mayor of the Town

Moon has fond memories too of his years in local politics. He served 10 years on the town council and two years as mayor.

"There were two parties here then, the Citizens and the Taxpayers," said Moon. "One party held a caucus and nominated me for mayor and a few nights later, the other party did the same thing. I had it cinched," laughed Moon.

But after he became mayor, it was no fun for his wife, he said. Town residents were always "calling her and raising the dickens, instead of waiting and talking with me," Moon commented.

He said he "put a stop to that," by not running for re-election.

Of his years in office, Moon regrets only that he did not push to "get more land at

the filter plant on Baseline."

"People raised Cain with me about getting some of it at the time, but now they wish we'd gotten more," said Moon.

Of current events, Moon says only that he thinks Lafayette made a big mistake when it "built the high school with Louisville and gave them the water and sewage because Louisville could give the water a lot easier."

Life for Moon Today

Moon, who says he owes his longevity to "never drinking much to speak of" and abiding by the "live and let live" philosophy, keeps active each day.

He still walks to Town Hall to pay his bills and goes to the grocery store, where "everyone is kind and helpful."

He says he "eats anything that's edible," pointing out he prefers a big kettle of stew, "like mother used to keep on the table to all that fancy stuff they all want today."

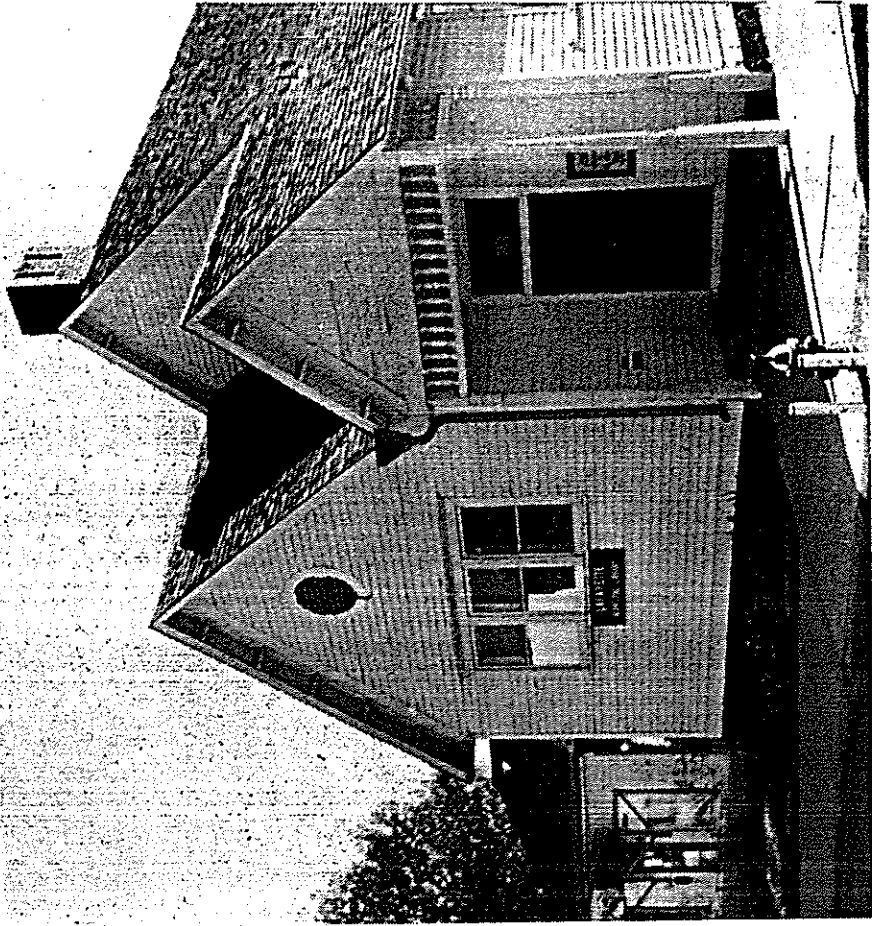
"Liquors are alright as a medicine," Moon said, "but not for drinking. I usually take hot toddies and beer when I'm sick, but some of them can drink it faster than they can make it, I guess I got turned off by it because I used to have to carry Uncle Dick home on my shoulder when he got drunk."

Today, Moon likes to "keep tabs on the girls next door" (employees of St. Joseph's Guild) scolding them not to smoke so much and "checking up on them at the library," where he visits with Effie Amicarella and Blanche Moon almost daily.

"I tell them I'm checking to see if they're keeping the place clean," laughed Moon.

Moon's only regret today is that he cannot see people on the street like he used to, and doesn't know who they are

unless they speak to him first. And back home, after supper, there's always "Cat", a furry red calico, who keeps tabs on Moon, reminding him promptly at 8:30 every evening that it's time to call it a day.



Lafayette Public Library is located inside the first church built in town, the First Congregational on East Simpson Street, which was built and financed for three years by Mrs. Lafayette Miller, who named the town after her late husband. The tiny house next door is that of Billy Moon, a town oldtimer.