

Judy Reich talking to Glenn Anspach----February 3, 1975

Judy Reich:

We're talking to Mr. Glenn Anspach of Anspach Jewelry. Mr. Anspach, could you tell us where you were born? And how you came to Lafayette.

Glenn:

Well, I was born in Langdon, North Dakota, but a very brief stay there. I was five weeks old when my mother passed away, and my aunt and uncle took me in and later on adopted me, so I consider them as my parents. I was there from Minnesota, so I was actually raised in and spent my young life in Montevideo, Minnesota. From Montevideo, I went into the jewelry business immediately after graduating from high school. I traveled on the road and I served apprenticeship and then I went to Algon National Watch College for my education. I returned to Minnesota and I started a small repair business in 1948. I kept that for four years and I sold it, and I went back on the road, traveling again. At that time I was offered a position managing a jewelry store in Boseman, Montana. I spent the next two years there and my wife and I had been looking for a place to locate, to start a jewelry store of our own. And we chose Lafayette, Colorado.

Judy:

Have you, since you've come to Lafayette, it was in 1955? (Glenn: Right, 1955) Have you seen a lot of changes? In the businesses or even the buildings?

Glenn:

Remodeling of buildings, such as this one we're in now, Hale's Supermarket which at that time was Robert's Market. Yoshihara's, the Florist Shop which was just a brand new building in those years. Wano Company which is expanded and all new. Yeah, there's been a lot of changes. I might mention too, particularly when we came here, there were paved streets, Public Road and Baseline. The rest were all mud streets or gravel, no curbing. (Judy: Were there many cars?) There were cars, yes, we were beyond the horse and wagon days. It was just that the community had not developed, because of course from the years of mining until recently. Actually the community had not prospered. And so it was more or less set back, over many years I'm sure.

Judy:

Do you think the new merchantings have helped the community to prosper in...

Glenn:

Oh, I'm sure because, actually your tax pace has to be realize it, without commercialism, and without businesses. The tax situation for any community would be rather desperate.

Judy:

Were the merchants a cohesive group, were they together, working together for, um...

Glenn:

Well, I'd say that they were a friendly group. This was one of the reasons we settled here. Very basically I'd say it was because of two individuals particularly, Ham Roberts and Lewis Miller who was a banker at that time. But they, I wouldn't necessarily say a close group commercially, they...we tried

over a number of years to develop a commercial Chamber of Commerce. Which, Although it's a nice social group, and we've always enjoyed the compatibility that way, they have never seemed to develop a commercial communication that would develop businesses.

Judy:

You mentioned that in 1956, Lafayette Days was organized. (Glenn: That's right) And that was sort of an attempted unity?

Glenn:

Ah, yes, to bring the community together and to offer a social function which would be enjoyable, of course we were interested commercially too. But in 1956, there were four groups that organized Lafayette Days. Fire department, VFW, Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce at that time.

Judy:

Did you feel that the community was closer than it is now, feeling wise?

Glenn:

I would say more of a family type community. We knew everybody. After a few years we were able to identify new people by name, when they walked in the door, we knew them. Where as today now, the people moving in and the change of population we find new people coming in everyday and we have to ask their name.

Judy:

Right. How many people were there around then?

Glenn:

About 2500.

Judy:

Now, getting to you personally about....can you talk about the problems of starting a business in Lafayette, and the difficulties and the pleasures of it.

Glenn:

Very difficult. I suppose the difficulties and the problems are part of our pleasures now, and reminiscing. But we came here from an area like Montana and raised in Minnesota and North Dakota, and the people were entirely different. The history of this community was entirely different than we had known, and when we couldn't pronounce let alone spell the names of any of the families. Now they come to us just as part of our natural living here.

Judy:

They've accepted you as being permanent?

Glenn:

They've finally accepted us as being permanent. I think I'll reiterate. An elderly couple came in to my store just a few years ago to purchase a watch for the lady and they chose a watch that they wanted, paid me cash for it, now of course I thanked them for coming to me, and the lady said very frankly, said, "Mr. Anspach, we watched you and you been here now sixteen years, and we decided that you were here to stay, so we would do business with you."

Judy:

That's great. I'm also aware that you're head of the Civil Defense.

Glenn:

Yes, I'm sole defence director, it's called the Office of Emergency Preparedness. We still go on the title of Civil Defense.

Judy:

You're the director of that? (Right) Can you tell me the function of that particular organization? And how it began?

Glenn:

Well, Civil Defense is basically dependant on all of the departments of the city for function. We operate, I've often said that we're ah...inconspicuous, because, and we trust that we will be, because we don't have a function to speak of, unless there's a disaster, or a community emergency. We're not quite like the police department or the fire department where we have day to day activities. But we do have responsibility and our responsibility is to plan for emergencies, to organize within the departments of the city, and the people of the community so that we will have harmony, and understanding, and function. If we do have disaster or emergency.

Judy:

When did this Civil Defense become organized?

Glenn:

The Civil Defense in Colorado was organized in the early 50's, about 1952, I believe. The Lafayette Civil Defense Regency was established originally in 1958. And after that time, the following,...we functioned for about a year and a half and at that time the Colorado Civil Defense was again very inconspicuous and had their office in Boulder. And the Director of Colorado Civil Defense at that time functioned out of his front porch. There was no state offices, as such. Now, of course, we have the Colorado Emergency Operations Center which is at Camp George West and it's a very elaborate, well protected office, as such. (Where is Camp George West?) At Golden. (I see.) And they have a complete underground EOC, Emergency Operating Center. And it's very well protected as I said and it would function, it does function daily and it would function efficiently under stress.

Judy:

Did you help organize the Civil Defense Organization since you were here? When it was....

Glenn:

In Lafayette I was active in the organization of it and then what happened was, we lost our identity, in 1959 or 1960. We lost our identity and what happened was that, again the organization of it wasn't as adequate and they took our applications for membership, took our roll call and they took our, well they literally took our identity and moved it into what they would consider Boulder County Civil Defense.

Judy:

Why did they do that?

Glenn:

Simply because they felt that they could organize and control the Civil

Defense better than we could.

Judy:

What was the original need, why did you feel it was necessary or why did Lafayette feel it was necessary to have a Civil Defense? Were there any disasters at that time?

Glenn:

No it was another one of the thoughts towards the future possibility of disaster or emergency. And of course there's additional advantages. As an example, acquiring emergency equipment. I think at that time we could say that perhaps acquiring emergency equipment was our dire need because, as an example the fire department didn't have fire-fighting equipment. And we needed some of it desperately.

Judy:

Where did you... could you get this from...from the state?

Glenn:

This would come through what we call Colorado Surplus Property. And also we have now opportunities today to acquire equipment from any place in the world. As an example, about a year and a half ago we acquired a tanker truck from the federal government. It has been converted into a tanker truck. At that time it was a troop carrier. And it came from Hill Air Force Base in Utah. We brought it down here and that piece of equipment is literally on lease from federal government and it doesn't cost us a penny. And we are using it day to day.

Judy:

How did Lafayette Civil Defense Organization gain its identity back after 1959?

Glenn:

Well, I that's where I suppose I can say I literally got into Civil Defense work and very much interested and I was a member prior to that time. But I wasn't one of the leaders. And so when we found that we no longer had a Civil Defense agency, of our own, that was in 1960 and at that time I was chief of the Fire Department. And so I became very interested in regaining our membership and our identity as a local Civil Defense agency. And there's a lot of difference between being part of the county and being an independent agency. So I went to the state offices in Boulder at that time and I insisted that we have our agency re-established. And after considerable work and talking to many different people, I was finally able to do that. And we established then, the Civil Defense Agency of Lafayette and we went under federal P&A which we call Personnel and Administration. Which is functioning as part of the federal government funding. Now, with our own agency, we are able to develop projects, operational plans, take part in the Civil Defense or the Emergency Preparedness if you will, nation wide, state wide, county wide, and locally. Whereas if we were part of the county Civil Defense, we would function only as they directed, and we would have project applications or we would only acquire equipment as the county would direct. So this way, I can go from our agency, I could prepare the papers, and present an operational plan or present a project for funding directly to the state of the federal government.

Judy:

Have there been any disasters or emergencies in Lafayette that you can recall that the Civil Defense Agency has been helpful?

Glenn:

No disasters, thank goodness. But we have had emergencies, in fact a week ago, the day of the high winds, weed alert was on the twentieth of January. And at that time, civil defense went on alert at about 1:15. In Lafayette. And I communicated directly...the chief of police was the one that contacted me first, down route. And from there I picked it up and contacted the schools I had excellent cooperation from Mr. Green, Mr. Fields, at both the elementary and middle school, Mr. Johnson at the Centaurus High School. And I would mention particularly KADE and K, what is it...KBOL radio stations. Both of them cooperated with me just excellently. And they were on the air every few minutes. Broadcasting to the citizens of Lafayette. What we were planning whether or not with the high winds, to hold the children at the schools. And as we had tentatively planned, up until about 2:30, that we would have to hold the children and possibly even arrange for dormitory sleeping, feeding, etc. if it were necessary, because at that point, we were questioning the safety of children being allowed to go home or busses even to transport them. Busses seemed to function all right felt they could, but at the same time I recall that day there was a large transport trailer-truck that was upset by the wind. So busses, even though they're large are not necessarily going to hold the road. But then about 2:30 the winds began to subside and we had tentatively what happened, we had planned to hold the children and the busses but then what happened, was normally the foot children that walked home would have left school about 3:00 from the elementary school. And they were held until 3:20. But the busses moved out pretty much on schedule. But this is a recent type of emergency thing where the Civil Defense was involved. And another situation was...1972 or 3, a flooding situation. We had had a scheduled Civil Defense meeting at Vail for that weekend. And...I was planning to go and that morning, Sunday morning about 11:00 I was called by the state EOC and put on alert here, because of the flooding situation and of course our seminar at Vail was cancelled. But then at that time we, we functioned as an example we were able to supply sandbags for Erie. We did help through the fire department and Civil Defense, we assisted Superior, Marshall area. We had situations here where a bridge was washed out and we assisted on that. Also, there's another function in the aftermath of an emergency. Such as, at that time the government declared disaster area throughout this area of the state of Colorado. And with that in mind, it was declared disaster area. But then, not only individuals, but particular city government could be able to regain loss of property. Such as, at that time our disposal plant was flooded. And as I recall there was a generator motor that was destroyed. But these costs could be regained... by federal government funding, by putting in claims for it so the Civil Defense can serve a purpose after a disaster as well as during.

Judy:

How large is the operation...how many people do you have working?

Glenn:

Well, day to day, we don't have as many people as you think like an organized group. But our membership is in the area of over 200 people in the community. Now this includes people such as the fire department...members, reserves or police auxiliaries. But it goes further. To Dr. Gordon, registered and practical nurses, Dale Peters, the pharmacist, people that are not necessarily involved with the work of rescue or this type of thing, but maybe people that are involved in the area of housing and feeding. We have a 200 budget stored hospital in Lafayette which I acquired back in 1964. And that is housed here and is basically for the purpose of emergency function, but it can be used

in necessity of day to day such as for, have 200 cots, and blankets, and pillows, and sheets,... a complete hospital unit. And at one time, well, during the flood, I was referring to Denver had evacuees and our people here transported 150 cots to Denver. For them to use for housing and sleeping, the people that were evacuated out of low lying areas. So there is a case where our hospital unit was actually put into use, partially.

Judy:

Where do, the funding then is federal funding, are there any members that payment perhaps dues, or does the city, citizens through taxes help pay for any of that?

Glenn:

Yes, city pays. Now what the federal funding is basically is matching funds. In other words, if the city spends \$100, the federal government will reimburse them \$50 of that. Now this all depends on the type of project or the purpose. But for instance now, our personnel administration, 50% of all those costs are paid by the federal government back to the city of Lafayette. If we pay \$10 for a roll of stamps, the federal government pays \$5 back to the city.

Judy:

Is it a very widespread program throughout Colorado?

Glenn:

Throughout the nation.

Judy:

Do most communities have it?

Glenn:

Not most communities. As an example, in Colorado, we are one of about 33 independent agencies. Now that includes county agencies, and city agencies. Now you're looking at cities like Denver, Boulder, Greeley, Colorado Springs, basically those are the cities that were involved. Lafayette is perhaps one of the smallest independent agencies in the state of Colorado. And you think of there being over 300 some communities, plus counties. When you think that there are only 33, or 4 or 5 agencies active in the state. We are one of very few that are active.

Judy:

Do you receive a lot of support from people in Lafayette?

Glenn:

Yes. Over the years I certainly have. We were...we were...recognized for having one of the outstanding shelter developments. But this was in the 60's when we were actively working with the shelter preparedness. But the people at that time, as an example, we put out...emergency kits. They were boxes, literally empty boxes, but they were identified as home shelter kits. And we had over 300 families or people that participated in that in Lafayette. Where as Boulder,...had less than 100. At that same time. I've always received excellent cooperation from the community, the people, the city, government, and the different departments in the city.

Judy:

Do you see a future in the Civil Defense agency, that it will growing

and helping in Lafayette?

Glenn:

Well, I definitely do, yes. I was out of the Civil Defense from 1965, I relinquished my position as a director. And then I accepted it again in 1971, when the City Council asked me to take it back. But even though we aren't day to day recognized for activity, I definitely know that there's a need for the planning and a need for the emergency supplies equipment. I see no reason that it would change over the years of population growth and industry development. Looking at world situations, I feel it's more important every year.

Judy:

What's the area you were involved? You said you were chief of the fire department?

Glenn:

Yes, I was chief in 1960 and I've held every position in the fire department except that called property officer. I was never a property officer. But I've been lieutenant, captain, secretary several times, treasurer, trustee, actively, now I'm attention board member and I'm treasurer of the fire department this year.

Judy:

Treasurer of the Fire Department you say? Have you, looking at it historically, how has the fire department changed?

Glenn:

You wouldn't believe the changes in the fire department. We started out in a small, what you would normally call a double car garage. Which is at present the council chambers. We had one functioning piece of equipment. Which was a 1945 Chevrolet... pumper. That was the only piece of equipment that we had at that time when we reorganized in 1957, that would function. And we did acquire another piece of equipment through Civil Defense. We acquired another pumper truck which was strictly for small fires, but it was fast, but thinking of those years, every time we left the station, on a call, we had to warn each other, or the pillar in between the two doors...parts of the garage so that we wouldn't take a hinge off the door or damage the truck. And then...to see the planning and the...building of the new fire station was in 1962, that was a pleasure. And now these recent years to see two brand new pumper trucks, purchased by the city, in the last three or four years, we've also acquired an ambulance, we've acquired a rescue truck, we have equipment that most of the departments of our society envy. And we have a station that is really beautiful. Although it is getting crowded now.

Judy:

Maybe they will expand again.

Glenn:

I'm sure they will.

Judy:

How did you become involved with the fire department? Did you have an interest before you came to Lafayette? Did it require training?

Glenn:

I just...didn't even know how to roll a hose. But that's how I got into

the fire department. In 1957 the department...over the previous few years there, had, well, just deteriorated. To the point that they didn't have membership, didn't have equipment, they didn't have active interest. And in 1957 the City Council disbanded the ~~the~~ fire department that was organized. At that time, literally disbanded it and called for new members. And under the leadership of Bill Callup at that time, Bill Callup reorganized the fire department and most of the people that came in to help him were men like myself that were concerned with the safety of our children, our property, and we realized that we needed one. Now he had probably five or six men that came back with him that did have a previous experience. But most of us, I didn't know how to roll a hose but I can learn. And that's where I started learning.

Judy:

You mentioned your children. How many do you have?

Glenn:

I have three. Denise is 19, she's in college at Greeley, Graig, that's G-r-a-i-g, is at Centaurus High School, a sophomore this year, 15 years old, And Dawn is our 10 year old, she's at the Lafayette Elementary School-fourth grade.

Judy:

And your wife's name was...

Glenn:

Dee. Everybody knows her as Dee.

Judy:

Now how...becoming... so involved in the Community do you think that alters your personality but you mentioned that it was sort of like a family feeling here. Do you think that helped...not when you said the protection of your family, I realize you mean your children too, but was the feeling of the way the community was inspire you to get involved? And your concern for Lafayette.

Glenn:

Well, I was, even as a young person, I've always felt...I've loved the community. If I lived there, or if I had an interest in something, I loved it. And that's the way I feel about Lafayette and I have since I moved here. This is my home, this is my community, so I'll do whatever I can to help it.

Judy:

Well, can you think of anything else from your stay in Lafayette that would be of interest in the historical aspect; the changes, or any memories that you have about certain events?

Glenn:

Well I think there are many things such as water development, of postal service. There was no house to house delivery, everybody picked their mail up at the post office. The street as I mentioned were paved and the curbs were put in, well, there are quite a number of other things and I'm sure everybody is well aware of that, newcomers may not be, but historically I think that Effie Amacarilla has done a tremendous job establishing a historical...assortment of recollections so I couldn't have too much to add to that.

Judy:

Unless you have any personal...

Glenn:

Well, I think of Civil Defense, fire department, Lafayette, Lafayette Days, ...church, Methodist church, they've grown. YOU know there are lots of things that we've seen grow. When we came here we had a part-time pastor, of another church today we have a full time pastor. Over the years we've had student ministers. Most of the time. And now to have a pastor with the caliber of Dr. Griffith, these are certainly very important developments. And I think the business community by itself, too, the bank is planning to move now, into larger quarters, build a new building, I hope that the city can see their way clear, I've been with them for the past three years to develop an EOC here, which would be an Emergency Operation Center which would house day to day, it could house the department, it would house part of the administration, and eventually I would like to see an administrative floor put on it, you know. A building of this nature has been vitally needed for many years and the city certainly needs the modern facilities for operating. And soon, maybe this year I hope we can see this happen. Lot of things have happened over the years and have yet to happen.

Judy:

Thank you very much Glenn:

Glenn:

It's been my pleasure.