

This is Fred Stones - I am at the home of Fred and Lavern Milliken at 106 East Cleveland here in Lafayette, CO. Fred we appreciate you letting us come and talk to you here for the Lafayette Library. This is a continuing historical type of project that they have got going down there and we wanted to come and talk to you about what you remember and what has transpired since you have lived here in Lafayette.

Tell me, when were you born? I was born in 1912. Where? In Ohio. In Ohio - what town in Ohio? Yurksville. Yurksville, Ohio - alright and where was Lavern born? She was born in Joplin, Missouri in 1913. How many children did you have? Two. And what were their names? Wanda Lou and Joy Ellen. They were both born here in Lafayette. Yeah, um um - How old is Wanda Lou - um Wanda is um - she is --- she was born in '32 I think, then she is about 54 ---- yeah, she's about that, 54 - Ok - and Joy is 8 years younger - Ok, so she would be about 46 --- um um. Do they have any children? Joy has two, she has a boy and a girl - now they're um, the boy Mark and the girl is an adopted girl - she's a - Mark right now will be um Marks 19 and Susie is 17. So you have the two grandchildren? Yeah, um um. Any great grandchildren? No. None at all. How long have you lived here in this house? About 47 years. 47 years. When did you come to Lafayette? 1922. And where did you live when you first came to Lafayette? A - A - A Dad and Mother was living in a little old house that was up there by where Glenn and Ida Brown used to live. Right there. Dad came out here for asthma. They brought him on a stretcher, he came out here in about 1919 and brought him on a stretcher and give him no time to live. Dad lived until 1964. Is that right? That's a fact. And I stayed back there from that time until -- um -- well my brother and I were back there Frenchie, my older brother - we stayed with different ones - I stayed with Grandpa and Grandma Milliken - Frenchie stayed with one of Dad's sisters - and we came out here on a - we hit Lafayette on October 13, 1922. What did your Dad do here for a living? Well, a - Dad was a carpenter and he a done carpenter work and then for quite a little while he was janitor up here at the grade school. He was janitor up at the grade school when I got married. We were a - at that time they were - that was right after the new - we called it the high school was built and they had more room down there then so they fixed up a couple or three rooms on the bottom floor and Dad and Mother and the rest of the family lived there, that's where I was living when I got married. And a where did you work when you first came to town? First job I had was when I finished the tenth grade in school - that summer I went to work on the section and this is kind of a funny story but it's the truth - a - I stopped in the old Rocky Mountain Store one day to get something for my lunch - Mother didn't have some fruit or something for my lunch and I got that and I talked to Mr. Autrey and I asked him for a job and I came home from off the section that night and a Mother said I hear you've been job hunting and I said why and she said well Mr. Autrey was up here and I said well what did you tell him and she said well he wanted to know if you were going back to school and she said I told him you were past 16 and I couldn't make you whether you wanted to or not and a so I said what did he say, she said that he said for you to come to work in the mornin'. So I went to work at the old company store driving a truck first, delivery truck and then Sterling Autrey a learnt me to cut meats and Sterling then was transferred over to Superior as the manager over there and I took his place here and I worked there until they closed the store which I think was in about '38, somewhere along there. Ok, tell me about that store. Describe the store to me, the inside of the store and how it was handled. Well, huh - toward the back on the back on the left side would be the butcher shop then all the east side of the store was all groceries and then on the other side why a toward the back of the store was all hardware, different things like that, nails, bolts, and any kind of hardware you would want, then on up toward the front was a -- bulk goods and different things like that huh - huh well we didn't handle any wearing apparel you might say, nothing like that but bulk goods

huh towels, dishtowels and huh just general, a little bit of everything. So you handled a little bit of everything at the store? Yeah, um um. Ok Was there more people bought at that store than just the people that worked at Rocky Mountain? Yeah, yeah um um. A the main reason was for that was we handled a good quality of meat. Meat was the main thing and that brought em in. Do you remember about what the prices were at that time? Oh gee, no. Can you remember any of that back? No. That's going back a long time. Yeah, that's going back a long time Fred and I tell you boy they were a lot lower than they are now. Who all worked in the store besides you and Mr. Autrey? Well huh, there was I and Mr. Autrey and Mr. Autrey's son Frederick and Sterling, his brother and huh Annie Barrowman which was Annie Snyder at that time. And then it wasn't long after that Casey O'Donnell came to work there. Tell me about Frederick Autrey, this is the first I've heard about Frederick Autrey? Well he huh, he was married to huh Ellen - huh - what the dicken's was her last name -- anyhow he was married to Ellen and they had two children a boy and a girl and a that is where you probably heard a lot of people the older people call me Fritz - well that's where that came from - there was three Freds in there. Somebody would call on the phone and want to talk to Fred well which one. So to end that we called Mr. Autrey Fred, and his son was Frederick and I was Fritz. So they could keep us separated. How long did Mr. Autrey manage the store there? A, I don't know how long he was there before I went to work there but I think he was there until they closed the store and I think that was in about '38 - cause I think I had about eight years in there. Why did they close the store? They just wasn't making any money I guess. Mrs. Roach, Josephine Roach she just closed her up. What happened to the store then? When they closed it up, what happened to the building? Was that when you came in? No. Who the dickens was in there after that? It was kind of remodeled a little bit then you had your Gamble's store in there. Yeah that was in the 60's. Yeah, who had something in there first. Well huh Ham was in that store for awhile. Yeah, but that was afterwards. Well, he was there just before me. Yeah, huh huh. Well now a let's get back to Frederick Autrey again. How long did he live here in town? Gee, golly. And what happened to him? You know I never did know, I'm not sure where Fred went to. But he lived here from the time he was born until he was married. Yeah, now a his daughter's name was a -- Bonnie, wasn't it? She married Ellsworth O'Donnell. That's Freds -- Yeah, that's Fred's daughter yeah, thats what I mean, Fred's daughter - Yeah, thats right. Her name was Clara. Clara O'Donnell. Yeah. Did Mr. Autrey live down there on the corner down a block where he lived all this time? Yeah, um um. Tell me some of the people, the names of some of the people that used to come in there and trade with you. That you can remember right off hand. Boy, I don't know. It's hard to remember those names right off the top of your head. Um um, yes it is. Maybe, if while we're talking if some of these old time residents come to your mind why just pop them in the convesation anyway. A - what did Fred Autrey do after he left the store, do you remember? A, yeah he huh started a little five and ten cents store, you remember, it was across the oh along in there by the Senior Citizens building is now. He had a little five and ten cents store in there for awhile and it didn't do any good so then he went to selling a cemetary lots for Crown Hill at that time. I know we bought lots from him and a the lots we had at that time where we bought them was nothing but an alfalfa field out there and now there beautiful down in there. So we have four grave sites there that I bought off of him. Then I think along about after that is when he probably started working for the town, wasn't it? I imagine it was, a were you working for the store when you were

married? Yeah - um um And a did Lavern work anywhere? Uh she didn't work until oh the kids were pretty well grown and then she started working extry down at Ham's. That was after I was working for Ham. You didn't go to school here in Lafayette. Me? I went to school here from I think about the fifth through the tenth. From the fifth through the tenth. Yeah um um. Ok, so you went to school - you started school in the old wooden schoolhouse then? Yeah. Ok The old one down there where it was all twelve grades in one building. Yeah, ok. Do you remember any of the teachers that were there? Well, yeah a - one of my teachers was Miss McCaslin which ended up marrying Ray Burt and then her sister which was Doc Hurt's wife, she was teaching there and a one of the men teachers was the Page - Frank Page and the superintendent was named Marris then it wasn't to awful long after that till Macrede came then he was the superintendent and his a-a wife was the music teacher and another teacher that I had at one time was a her name was Baker and she married Ralph Miller - that was Ralph Miller's wife - she was one of my teachers. Tell me a how, how many stores were there in Lafayette, grocery stores at that time? Well, there was approximately about 8 or 9. Can you count 'em off or figure them out? Well, I think Claude Dollar down there had Red and White, then there was Davis's, there was Charley Scholes and a Bermont's and a Lee Baker and I think Julius Maginski had one down there and then Roderick had one over here and a Minihan and Tommy Johns, that would be about nine. Was a - a - a Clemens in Lafayette - Yeah, yeah - Clemens he sold some groceries to - Yeah, um um - So we had about 10 grocery stores we sure did for 12 to 1400 people Yeah that's right - and now we only have a well two grocery stores for 12 to 14,000 people. Yeah that's right. What other stores were there in town that you remember? Well a the Hub down there, Aldersons had there clothing store, Sam Luccock had a clothing store that was about it outside of the drug stores. There was two drug stores, one down on the corner and one up here. J. P. Dow had it down on the corner-let see it would be what a - oh where Aldersons Hub was there at the end. J. P. Dow had a drug store in there. Who were the Doctors here at that time? A Dr. Braiden and Dr. Porter. Can you tell me a little bit about them? Well, Braiden was our Doctor, he was a easy going fella, very good, he was a, I think the biggest part of - a lot of his experience came in a - he was a Dr. in the World War I and a he was we thought a good Doctor. Dr. Porter was just a regular Dr. here in town, he also was the Dr. for the mines. See the mines always had a Dr. on hold that they the miners paid so much each payday into the Dr. and Porter was that. Was Dr. Hurt here then? Yeah. And where was his office then? Um, um . Was he up above the company store at that time or where -- No, I think he was across the street in the big old building there, where the Ford garage was there. He was upstairs over there I'm pretty sure because I forget when he pulled mine. I've still got em, the original teeth. Yeah, Ok. Dr. J. B. Hurt - painless dentist. Yep. He was written up in Believe it or Not. Yeah, um um. Dr. J. B. Hurt. A throwin' in something for what it's worth I, here a while back Harry Crews had his 80th birthday and we go an invitation to go down, we went down there to his daughter's house and then Erna Dollar was in there, Claude Dollar's wife Erna was in there so I got to visiting with her and that was the first time I had seen her for many a year. Tell me about Harry. Well, I think he's a, the kids I don't know whether his daughter was the instigator in it came up with a very unique idea in which I enjoyed. They requested no gifts but to either bring a card or on a paper or something some experience

that you had had with him since you had known him. Now wouldn't you think of something after all these years. I think that would be great. Sit down there and read off a bunch of them and think of all those things that have happened. I think it would be nice to put on a tape. Yeah. I thought that was real good. That would be nice to put on a tape like this. Where did Harry work when he was here? A he worked at the Hiway Mine. What did he do down there? He was an engineer. He was an engineer. Yeah, um um. There was four of them down there. You said you never worked in the mine. I worked about three years on the top of the mine down there. At the Hiway? Yeah, um um. And what did you have to do down there? A, well originally when I started out I was the cardox man and that's fillin' these a -- that particular time that was when cardox just started out and it was new and it was a gas that was in these large shells and they drilled the holes and put them in and the gas just explodes - pushes the coal, it don't splinter it and make slack out of it near as bad, and they was using that so then Frank started giving me extra work on top at - when I'd get through with the cardox. So then I finally quit the cardox and just worked straight on top for the mine. And you worked there about three years. Yep um um. This was for Frank Yokus. Yeah. Did you go to the service Fred? No. Ok. Where were you during the war years. I worked in Remington Arms. Remington Arms. Can you tell me what happened to the town during the war years. Some of the things that the town did to or some of the things that we had to do here in town during the war years that was unusual. Um. I don't know, you got me there. Were you on the ration board? No, um um. I remember the ration all very well. Gas rationing and food to. Yeah, we had all of them. A - when did you start to work for Roberts? Um - must have been about '43 or '44 along in there somewhere. Altogether I spent 29 years with Ham. Alright now, when you started to work for him where was he located? He was located in the little place, then we moved over into a - a - a where the old company store was and then uh we moved from there over in that corner building when they remodeled where the old Bermont store was at. So I was in on all of the movin'. When did he remodel that store and move into the big store? What a - tell me a little bit about the operation of the store - that you worked for, for Roberts. Well, when I first went to work for him and then for quite a few years I was the meatcutter, I was in charge of the meat department. And then it went along like that until oh I don't know, it was probably five or eight years something like that before Ham quit, yeah it was more than that probably 10 years why he asked me one time if I would consider coming out of the shop and helping him, he said he was getting to where he didn't want to take over so much responsibility and turned it over to me so I was what they called the assistant manager there. And I just worked wherever I was needed. Sometimes butcher shop, sometimes anywhere else, you know. How was the business there? He had a good business. Do you remember, now this is getting a little later in our lives, do you remember some of the people that traded there? If you think back. Yeah, you could just start almost anywhere down the streets here, you know what I mean, just like a Morgans, Sutaks, Bells, a Scarpellas down on the corner, Todds over there, Gibboneys, we just had an awful lot of them. Was at least ten grocery stores still in operation, all ten of them? No, no. No they weren't. So the competition had a dwindled down dwindled down there wasn't that many stores No I'd say probably half that many - yeah -- and he handled a full line of meat and groceries and everything else, yeah um um. Was it all, was it a cash operation? No, um um. Credit. Credit. A - how do you think, I'm going to put you

on the spot now, how do you think that a that people today can pay cash which they have to do, why couldn't they do it then? They could have I think - a - well - you go on back into the first years that I was with the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company - a there was so many of those poor buggers that didn't work through the summer at all, well then the store carried them and a it used to kind of upset me a little bit but then course I couldn't do anything about it. But in the a - a after they'd get to workin' in the winter why then before payday before it came up why the mine would call over and want to know, want your list so here: so and so all, so and so maybe \$50, so and so for somethin' else but there was so many of those poor buggers that all, all, all that's what it was, well Mr. Autrey was a kindhearted fella and a they would take all the guys money and a so then they would come in and say, now Mr. Autrey I have to have some medicine or I have to pay my rent or I have to do this or that whatever it is, so Mr. Autrey would advance him the money and that would be put on his bill and just carry it through. So he helped them out like that. Now a when Ham a when Ham sold to Allen Hale a Allen told me that it absolutely would be strictly cash. Well I'll be honest with you Fred I was a little worried and a Ham said you could never do it but he did it and he had a good business. Now I know that many and many a time I've seen Ham mad, I've seen everybody in the old Rocky Mountain store, I've seen them mad somebody that you carried along till they got on the books for about all you could allow them to have and you'd say now listen you've got to pay on this that's all I can let you have. So then they would get mad and what they'd do they'd take their cash and go somewhere else.- bought groceries, which is not according to hoyle. If ain't the thing to do. But that's what happened. It seems to me like that in the older days that man's word meant more to him than it does today. I really do. I think if a man told you I'll pay you a certain time, he would do it. What was the basic reason behind this periodic having to get credit at the grocery store of the miners? Well I think it was just because they weren't working in the summer-time. They would just get laid off you know. Now there was a few of 'em maybe that worked a couple three days a week or something like that and they could maybe get by but some of 'em didn't work at all there for three or four months, didn't work at all. Was this just at the Rocky Mountain or was this generally throughout the whole field? Generally throughout all the fields. So this was a problem wherever people lived and wherever they went? Yes, and of course at that time we a, alot of that time in the early ones there, there wasn't such a thing as unemployment compensation either. That didn't come in until after social security came. I can remember then that the tops then along in the late '30s, middle '30s to late '30s of the unemployment compensation was \$15 a week. Course \$15 in those days was alot different than it is today. Yes it was. That's true. That's right. Loaf of bread for a nickel, milk for a dime. Did they get caught up in the wintertime what they had gone behind in the summertime? Yeah, almost all of them did. Alright, did they have any extra or was it just about time to start in all over again? Well some of them would get a little extra but not to much, just about time to start all over. Start all over again. It was just like that one song you heard all the time " I owe my life to the company store". That was about the way it was. Did they have a coupon system? Yeah they did, partly at some time, once in a while, part of the time they did but mostly you just made out a sales ticket. And that was charged against their account at the mine office? You kept a running account of that and they were going to get paid on the 14th, I think it was, the 14th and the 29th something like that, but on say the first of the month they would call in, give them time to catch it up, call in to see what this

guy owed, so you would tell 'em and they would take that off the 14th pay and after that they would call for the next one - so it was a little rough on some 'em. Alright, at the company store, I can see how that would work out, now at these independent stores that didn't have any ties with these oil companies what would they do then? Just took a chance, that's all I can say. Just trusted the people to get their money? That's right. Somebody for instance that - like Lee Baker up there that had been in business for so many years in this town, he charged to everybody, you know what I mean - I often wondered what the poor old fella when he finally quit, what he had on them books. I'll bet he had plenty. I'm sure he did. But still people remember him fondly and they should, alot of 'em. You bet your life they should.

You've been involved with the city government here at times in your life?
Well no really I've never been on the board. I've always passed that up. I wouldn't have anything to do with it but I was on the schoolboard for six years that I spent there and I enjoyed that alot. Mr. Angevine of course was superintendent which was a very nice man to get along with. He was tops and I learned alot about things then on the schoolboard but I've been asked alot of times to run on the townboard but I'll be real honest with you I didn't want any part of it. I'm the same way. I was on the schoolboard but I would never go on city council. What years were you on the schoolboard? Must have been from '52 to '58. The reason why I can say that is Joy, out youngest daughter, graduated in '58 and I went off the board, I don't know whether it was when the election was April or the first of May or something, anyhow I went off the board and wouldn't run again because I said I don't have any kids in school, let somebody that's got kids and a - so I went off the board then and Joy graduated about a month later. That's something I'll always remember, Mr. Angevine, I was sitting down there in the crowd that night and he got up and he made a little talk and he said something about well he said "we've had one fella that's been here with us for quite a little while and he has a daughter graduating tonight and I think it would be no more fitting than we asked him to come up on the stage and present his daughter with that diploma." That was before they consolidated the school district?
Yeah, yeah. Okay. They consolidated in '61. I don't remember. '61 I think. Do you think it's better for the school the way it is now with the consolidation or the way it was before? Well, I've got kind of mixed feelings, I think maybe your curriculum and different things is maybe a little broader now, there's more different things they can have than what we had at the time but I still think local and keeping you hands right onto things is a little bit the best. Now I know that they have classes and stuff that they teach nowadays that we couldn't afford to have in our day. But also I think that we knew more of what was goin' on in our own district too. So it's a mixed thing. I don't know Fred I shouldn't even be talkin' but lotsa things have been bothering me a little bit. One of 'em is calculators. I see guys down in the bowling alley that has to use caluclators to add up their scores and I think if I had my way about it there would never be a calculator allowed in the schoolhouse. I can understand that. Yeah, they should use that paper and pencil. That's what that is for. Learn how to do it. Yeah. That's what they're going to school for. The kids don't do that anymore, they have to have that calculator. I don't like it but I can't do anything about it. That's right.

You came to Lafayette in 1922, describe the life of the town at that time.
What did you do for entertainment? Um. Nothing. About the only thing they had in them days that they don't have now they used to have some awful good baseball teams through the summer. You would always have a ballgame and of course that was long before I started to play. I didn't start playin' until I was I think - I started playing American Legion ball when I was younger and then when you get past 16 years of age they kick you out of that then I started playing for the town and we used to have some awful good ballgames here.
Baseball or Softball? Baseball. That was baseball. When did the softball craze hit? Oh boy. I started playing for the town when I was 16 so it must of have been - the softball craze must have started in I would say the middle '30s. Do you remember some of the fellas that played baseball with you?
Well Frank Yakus was one. He was the one that worked down at the -- yeah, he was the general manager down at the mine. I played a few games, not too many with Doc Hurt and then of course when we all came up the younger generation there was the two Metz, Ronald Metz and Wilbut Metz and Bill Nace, Johnny Lewis. We were all in that -- most of us were in the American Legion ball why there was Johnny Lewis and Jimmy Phyllis and a we had a 50th anniversary here oh 10 years ago or so. That's great. Up here at the restaurant and I think there's only 9 of us left out of that team. A couple of the Amicarella boys, Claude and Henry and we had one kid by the name of Ambrose Garcia, he's in California now and the two Mastrianos, Frank and Tony. I think there was 9 of left out of the bunch. We had quite a time. What teams did you play?
Well in the softball? In the baseball. Baseball I played for Lafayette here and then I played for Louisville then I went to Berthod, they had a Colorado Northern League up there which was there was about 4 or 5 of us from Lafayette that played up there. Now when you was playing here for Lafayette what teams did you play around? Oh just, mostly Denver teams that we could schedule. Course we played Louisville every once in while too you know. Tell me about the rivalry of Louisville. We used to have a good rivalry. We used to play a ballgame on Sunday afternoon then if we'd get into an argument or two up there why then we'd all go up to Eldorado Springs Sunday night and finish it. It was the funniest thing now one time we had a negro traveling team comin' through here and we scheduled them. So we went to Louisville and got about half of their players to come over with us and it was the funniest thing, big old Cal Channel was pitchin', I was was catchin' for him and we played what they called the Michigan Wolverines and we all worked that day up till noon. Cal worked in the mine and by golly we came home and we beat them coons that day 4 to 2. They thought they was really goin' to have some fun with us. They got to showin' off out there and Cal just really pitched a ballgame. Now let's get into the softball. Softball flourshed here for a long time. Yeah. Well did the same people play that switched over from baseball into softball? Pretty close, pretty close.
Okay. Outside of your pitchers. Generally your pitchers was somebody that were generally new. Now when we started here we didn't have a park up here and we were playing in Longmont under Longmont's name and the best league I think that we ever had was what we called the Pavement League which consisted of us which was Longmont, Longmont and Loveland, Fort Collins, Cheyenne, Laramie and then there was one more in there. But it was nothing, we would work all day on your job, run home, grab a bite to eat and jump in the car and drive to Laramie to play a doggone ballgame. Did they have lights then - they'd have to have lights. Yeah, yeah oh yeah. The trouble was Fred that anymore today somebody asked you to come out and play, how much do I get? We used to play because we loved the game.

We really wanted to play. Sure, sure. And it was fine then. So after that league was over and broke up I was playing for Johnson's Corner in Longmont and which paid off for me because when the store quit why I went to work for Joe. Joe Johnson? Yeah, um um. I was playing ball for him at the time and I went to work for him, and then I worked down here, I worked at this south station for a little while and then that's where I went to work for the mine then. Frank came in and talked to me and talked me into coming down there which I did. Did you play with them the year they went to Oregon for the national title? No. Closest I ever got was when I was playing for the Black Diamond Mine over in Boulder. Baldy Meschetti. We came down to the championship game that night and we had a team to play that we won the district up in Johnstown with no sweat and then this one team that we had to play over there that night why I think we beat them four or five times during the year. So we had our suitcases packed, we was on the way to Chicago, we was going to Chicago so we played them for the championship that night and they just wailed us. I guess we just couldn't get our hats on or something. It was to bad, we beat 'em all year you know and they come in there and boy they really beat our ears off. That's what you call a case of overconfidence? Yes it was. I enjoyed that over there very much. My oldest daughter, for instance, still is - talks about it, she was, I don't know just toddlin' around, a couple three years old and Wizzer White was playing with us and Wiz used to come over there and get her and take her down to the dugout. He'd hold her on his lap till he had to go out in the field and then hand her to somebody else. That kid spent more time in the dugout than any of the rest of us. They were all, outside of about two of us, the rest of 'em were college kids. How long did Wizzer White play for you? Oh, he was there a couple of years. He left. But White and Mearle Lefferdink ended up being the principal over at Boulder High, Mearle was playing with us and Billy Stranigan that was coach up in Wyoming for a good many years there, University of Wyoming. Oh we had a great big long lanky guy on first base by the name of Bernie Handler, jewish kid - boy he was as limp as a dish-rag. I never forget he always had his favorite remark, he'd get a guy out or something like that and he'd hollar "open the gate and let the clowns out". He was a card. Oh we had some good times. Every so often, Baldy wasn't married at that time and his mother, a good little ol' hardtime woman, very sweet, and you can imagine that their house up there was immaculate, he had this trucking outfit there in Black Diamond Coal there in Boulder and he come out and said "boys, mom wants you all up at the house after the game". Okay. we'd go up there and he'd have a bunch of home brew and spaghetti and italian bread and all you had to do was take your spikes off. Couldn't walk in there with your spikes on but your dirty clothes you'd sit on the floor or wherever you please and just go up there and eat and have a good time. That little ol' lady was just tickled to death. Every so often at least once a month we had to go up and have a party. Oh she was wonderful.

Did you ever join any of the service organizations or lodges here in Lafayette?
Yeah. I'm a poor lodge member Fred, I did belong to the Odd Fellows for awhile then I finally quit that. I spent about five years in the fire department and then I was in the Lions Club for awhile. The fire department is a nice organization, well all of them are, Odd Fellows and the Lions Club are all good organizations. What year did you join the fire department? Golly I don't know. It was the early '30s somewhere but I couldn't tell you when. In the early '30s. Alright will you tell me a little bit about what went on on the second floor of the City Hall during initiation night. Well I don't know if a guy should talk about those things or not. That's history. They don't do that anymore. No, they don't do it anymore. Well --- I know I'll never forget it. No I'll say not. Those oysters they tied strings on and made you swallow it. Pulled it back up, didn't

taste to good and then they got that pair of boots hooked up to the magnets, that kind of makes you dance around a little bit. A few things like that then some of the paint they use on you you'll never wash it off you gotta just wear it off and of course the worse one was the hangin' them on the belt from one end to the other and back. And you know I'll tell you the truth as long I was in there I never hit a guy yet. I might act like I was going to but I didn't. There was a lot of 'em that did. Ooooooh, boy some of 'em really laid it on. I know I took some - I came home the seat of my pants was boy - you didn't have nothin' on either. It took awhile to get to where you could sit down. Yes sir and I'll tell you one thing that some of the rest of them said at one time if you had guts enough to go through that initiation you made a good fireman. You had guts to do anything. That's true, that's true. Of course they were smart you know, they took and put you in jail before they started so that you couldn't change your mind and then you had to go and go ahead and go through it. Once you got started there was no other way. That's the truth. Who were some of the people that were in the fire department at that time? Do you remember them? Bun Graves, the reason I'm sayin' Bun is because he was secretary the year I was chief and we went to Glenwood Springs together with our wives to the convention and the races. I remember him and a oh --- The ones I remember and you'll probably remember 'em too was the Bruggers, Yeah - McMahan, Yeah - and a Joe Lastoka - yeah, and another one I was thinkin' of was Jack Lewis - Jack Lewis, the reason I remember him was because he was one of 'em that brought some whiskey into the cell and he said if you'd take my advice you'd drink some of this before you go upstairs. Boots Noble, he was there - Yeah. Oh there's been alot of 'em I'll tell ya. What was your feelings about that initiation? Well it never did bother me any. It's like I say I never could get myself to stand up there with a paddle and haul off and hit some poor guy who was hangin' on that thing up there but some of 'em did but the rest of it I thought it was fun. It wasn't anything that was going to hurt you too much. That electricity would jar you, shake you a little bit but nothing there would hurt you, you know. Did you ever know of anybody that actually was injured in that? One of 'em got a broken arm up there one time. But it wasn't on that, he tripped and fell someway, it seemed like it was one of the Bruggers but outside of that there was nobody ever got hurt to amount to anything.

I'm going to change the subject. Describe to me what the town was like as far as the streets, the sidewalks, the septic tanks, what-have-you when you came to town. Well, there wasn't any of the streets paved, there wasn't any curb and gutter and septic tanks why I think most of us have got 'em all over our back yard. We'd use one for awhile and then it wouldn't drain so we'd have another one dug and I know I've got two out there that I know of with a grease trap and oh there's been alot of improvement there I'll tell you. The a - I don't remember just exactly when it was, it seems like it was along in the very early '40s when they put the curb and gutter in and paved this street out here. However, the WPA done alot of work on that. That's something right now that sometimes that - at that particular time I didn't think much of the WPA because there was too much standin' around doin' nothin' but they did get somethin' done and right now instead of just handin' 'em the money I'd like to see 'em put some of 'em to work. On these streets and stuff. I think it would do alot of good. Now the streets, I don't know the town as far as I'm concerned has always - there's only one thing that really irritates me right now and that's today and I don't know whose idea it is but one of these days I'm going to find out and a - when we get a bad snowstorm alright, they grade everything from that side over here - well that's wrong - grade it over to that side because the sun will hit it and melt it - over here, I've got ice out here for a month afterwards and I don't know whose idea but grade it into the middle, but they don't do it they grade it all over here. You go out and talk to the man on the grader and he says well that's what they tell me to do. So I don't know whose idea.

But I was really happy when they talked about oiling the roads and stuff because it was a great thing I think. What were the other real improvements of the city? Well I don't know. One thing that they've done over the years of course they needed it on account of a lot more population was the improvements of the fire departments equipment. Used to be we had that old, what was it about a '26 Chevie truck, that we had to pull half the time or push it and then the hose carts and they just didn't have the equipment, now then they've really got the equipment and these kids today are doing a beautiful job. Yes they are. And the first aid equipment and the way that those fellows work is something that we really need. It's wonderful. Oh that fire department I think a lot of it. Do you think that the first aid or the rescue or whatever should be divorced from the fire department? Well I never did give that any thought that way. I never did. What I'm saying is should it be made a paid organization instead of a volunteer organization? Well a -- You and I have both been on the fire department and maybe we would answer three calls a month, you know, because at that time we didn't have the -- buildings or nothing -- and we didn't have the medical to worry about. As I remember the only ambulance service around was Mr. Henning had an ambulance so all we had was just the fire department and maybe we had, if it was a real rough month, we might have three calls. Now it isn't unusual for these people to have three or four calls a day. Not a bit. And it seems to me like that that might be just a little bit much to ask some of these people to do this on a volunteer basis. Well you've got a good point there, at least partly. I think your driver and probably one other man I think should be paid. Now if they have any volunteers that is free at the time who want to go along why you know that is capable of doing it, fine but also I have always thought kind of that they oughta have at least one or two men paid on the fire department. One day shift and one night shift. For nothing else more than to keep those things in operating condition. Ready to go? Yeah. Keep the a - be sure that they're gased up, be sure that will start when they want them to start, you know a little bit everything. I still think they could use two men at least. What do you think about the growth of the town? How has that affected the town? Well a few years ago, two or three years ago, I was a little disgusted with watching it grow so much, I thought we was gettin' out of hand and the main reason was that we, the ones that had been livin' here all the time, didn't have enough water to start with and a-a-a so they build more houses and more houses and then you think what the devil am I goin' to do for water and for some reason or another, I don't know how they've accomplished it, the townboard or somebody and I think the last two years now is the first time I can remember we've never had watering hours. They're doing a job there somewhere and as long as they have the water and the sewer and everything there why I have no objections to what they want to build. I think that businesses, yes, I think we oughta have all of them that we can have because on account of the tax brackets. Because the more businesses that are paying sales tax and stuff like that why and their tax why the least that you and I are going to have to pay. If they raise our taxes why, and which they do go up every year, I'd say a little bit but not out of reason. I paid \$35 a year when I first got this house. I won't ask you what it is now but I know it's higher than that? Yes, yes it is. But really, seriously though our taxes here in comparison to Broomfield or some of the Denver places, the ones that I know of people I can compare them with, are not as high as theirs.

We are just about at the end of our tape here and is there anything that you particularly want to talk about here before we have to cut this off? No, course now this is a - I was kind of disappointed the first time or two that I walked into the new city hall down here to pay my water bill and the main reason I was is because being here all these years, I walked into a place like that and I look up and I don't know a soul. Not a one. Now whether it's because the people in Lafayette have not asked for the job or don't want it or something, I don't know but it seems to me like that some of the people that way maybe are kind of left out in the cold somewhere. I can walk into the Library down there and I know three or four of them. But you walk into city hall and I don't know a soul outside of Larry. Larry is the only one I know down there. Course that is the way it is all over town. I guess that's right. Used to be we knew everybody in town but of course now with 12 or 14,000 people in town that isn't possible you know for us to know all of those people and we recognize the fact that it has changed so much. Well Fred we appreciate you letting me come and talk to you. Well I've enjoyed it, I really have. Well you know you get to visiting about things that happened years ago and one thing brings on another and it goes. Everybody I talk to there's something else that fits into place. I enjoy doing this as you can probably tell because -- that's right -- It gives me a chance to get out and visit with people about things that have happened in the past years, things that I have seen happen, things that you have seen happen and it's nice to be able to put this down so that some day somebody might come by and want to tape some of this and listen to it and see what is going on. There was times along when I was 14 - 13,14,15 years old that I've seen the time that some of us was a little on the ornery side. I have seen the time that Henry Mathias was one of the cops then, I've seen him come up to the school in October and when we got out of school he'd whistle to about 3 of us and take us down and throw us in jail. You're not going to dump any outhouses tonight boys. You wouldn't do that! I've dumped alot of 'em. Who helped you do it? Oh there was Greek, we called him Greek - Johnnie Lewis, Chipmunk, a whole bunch was in on it. We was always in something. Judge McCugh used to live right across the street right over there. Was he the city judge? Yes. Not to put you on the spot but was you ever called up before Judge McCugh? One time. We finished playing a ballgame up here, us kids, that was when I was playing for the American Legion, finished playing a ballgame and somebody told us that Nute Willis down there across the creek had a good watermelon patch, so there was one kid that didn't get along too good with us, so unbeknown to us why he was hid out down there with his notebook and pencil, so we didn't know anything about it - I'll admit we did kind of tear up the patch a little bit that evening and so the next day why Frank Page the principal came around to the room and he started reading off the names you, you, you, report down to Judge McCugh's at 4 O'clock. I think they had 30 some of us in there. Seems like it was 32 of us. This kid had sat up there and wrote our names down and so we admitted we had been in the watermelon patch. That was all true. Because when he caught us in it down there he chased us from there to Baseline Road up through that field there with a shotgun. He never did shoot at us, I don't know whether it had any shells or not but he chased us clear over to Baseline Road before we got away. So when it ended up why the Judge, the old boy said that his patch he figured was worth \$60. That was alot of money in those days so the judge charged each one of us \$2.00 a piece to pay for that melon patch. I remember that, that was my only trip in front of Judge McCugh. So you had to pay for the melon patch? Yes, we had to pay for the melon patch. Well those are things that you look back on with fond memories really. Yeah that's right. Dick Morgan was the Justice of the Peace at that time too over here on Cannon Street.

How about automobiles? When did the automobiles take over here in Lafayette?

Well there was plenty of automobiles here before I got here. When I was 16 years old I bought a Model T Coupe, it was 1925 Model T Coupe. That was my first car. Boy it was a dandy. Speed limit on the highway then was 35 miles per hour.