

This is Fred Stones on March 4, 1986. I'm at 101 East Chester talking to James W. Graham. He's a long term resident here of Lafayette. This is in the continuing oral history for the Lafayette Library and Mr. Graham has been kind enough to consent to talk to us today so that we can have his recollections on the tape.

Jimmy, I appreciate you letting me come down and do this for the library. We are trying to get all the old time residents and of course you're one of the prominent ones here in town so we particularly wanted your recollections of what the city was like and about your life. When were you born Jim? 1902. Where? Coal Creek, Co. Where's Coal Creek? About a mile and a half or two miles from Canon City. Oh yeah, I forgot that that's where it was. What was your father's name? Same as mine. James W. Graham, are you Jr., you're Jr.? Yeah. Alright, he was Sr.. Alright. What was your mother's name? Julie McDonald was her maiden name. Where was she born? Illinois. Do you know what town? A - let me think a minute. Was your father born in Illinois also? Born in Scotland. Oh he was born in Scotland, whereabouts in Scotland? Down around Glasgow. Glasgow, Scotland, okay. Some little town down there. Okay. When were you married? 1924. And who did you marry? I married Madge Waite. Madge Waite, and where was she born? In a Wisconsin. Okay. You were living in Lafayette when you were married? I was, yeah. You were here in Lafayette, where did Madge live when you were married? She lived in Twin Falls, Idaho. Twin Falls, Idaho. How did you get together? We went to high school together in Grand Junction. Ah, so you went to Grand Junction to high school. Your folks was living in Grand Junction? Yeah, Okay. How many children have you had? Three. And can you tell me what their names are? Two boys and a girl. James III, Larry and Madge. Alright, James the III, can you tell me about him, is he still here in town? Yes. And how many children does he have? He has two boys. Two boys, and they're going to school here in Lafayette? Yeah. Alright. Was the second one a boy or a girl? Larry, a boy, or the second child was a girl. That was Madge? Yes. Okay. Where does she live now? She lives on East Baseline-no-West Baseline. Right here in town. Yeah. And she married who? Vern Berry. Vern Berry. Okay. And how many children do they have? Two daughters. Alright, now how about Larry? Larry lives down in Centaur Village, he's got three gals and a let see, MaryAnn's maiden name was Urban. MaryAnn Urban. Okay. Well that gives us a little bit of background of your family here. Yeah. This is a - maybe fifty years from now somebody will want to come in and find out about your family and this will give them a little bit to start on.

When did you come to Lafayette? Early 1911. 1911. So that's been 70 some years ago, 75 years ago. Tell me, what was the town like then? Town of about 1800 people. And a-a purely a coal mining town. Alright. Can you give me a little bit of background on the city at that time? It was a bad time. There was a big coal strike on at that time. And there was bitter feelings between the citizens on one side and the strike breakers on the other side. The mines had fences built around them and they built, the companies built houses to house the people that come in to break the strike. They had towers with search lights on 'em and machine guns in them and that lasted - what - almost five years. Josephine Roach was the first coal operator to break ranks and sign the contract with the United Mine Workers. Who was she with? Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. Where were the towers located in the city? In the camps, right by the mines. In the camps, right by the mines. Was there one down by the Simpson? Yeah. Where else were there? One over on the hill at Eklahight. Thats - there used to be a mine there, Eklahights they called it. Yeah. Was there one out at the Standard? No. It didn't go that far out? There was one at the Columbine? That was way later. That was in 1922 or 3 or somewhere along there. Was there any gunfire during that strike? Yeah, quite a bit of gunfire.

Not many people hurt. But mostly noise in other words. Yeah. There was some casualties, I forget just what but a --. Can you name me some of the mines that were around here at that time? In close, say within five miles of town. The Vulcan, the Mitchell, Standard, the Capitol, The Blue Goose, and at that time that's about it. A was the Simpson still working? Oh yes, yeah. Okay. Were the mines open then over here at the old Public Service land? They had one little mine over there they called the Electric. The Electric Mine. Okay. Did you work in the mines? I did. Which mine did you work in? I worked in the Vulcan. Down south and a little west of 287. Yeah. And I also worked in Superior at the -- what the heck was the name of that mine over there? The Industrial. Yeah. The Industrial. Both of those were Rocky Mountain Fuel Mines as I remember under Josephine Roach. Yeah, right. Yeah, okay. How long did you work in the mines? About 12 years. And what did you do down in the mines? I did everything. Like what? From diggin' coal to being boss. Okay. Tell us a little bit about how they dug coal in those days? Well this field was on what they called the Ruman Pillar system. They'd a, they drove entrys, which were tunnels to the modern people, and one a was to a - mostly two because they had to carry air. One was the incomin' and one was the exhaust. And off of these entrys they cut rooms that they would drive to a certain boundry. The room would a, they'd widen out in approximately 20, 22, 24 feet wide, then when they got to the face of the coal most of the coal around here is flat, no pitch to it. They would use machinery to undercut the face for maybe 5 or 6 feet in and then shoot it down. Load it by hand, then they got in later it was loaded by shakers and machines. When you was working in the mines it was mostly all hand work? Yeah. Did a - in the mines that you worked in how much timbering did you have to do? Oh, a regular job. It had to be done all the time. And you didn't get paid extra for that did you? No. In the rooms the miners didn't get any extra for timbering. Course they had company men timbering like on the roadways and entrys and different places. But where you were working you were expected to do your own timbering? You bet. And your own track lane. Yeah. Okay. How much did the coal - the cars weigh, about how many tons? Oh average a ton and a half. Ton and a half in a car. And how did you identify your cars? So that you got credit for it. You carried a identification chip, about that big around, with a hook on it, you had to hook it in your belt and you'd take one off your belt and hook it onto your car. Then what happened to it then? The check layman then would put your number on a sheet of paper he carried there and the weight of the car. Okay, that's when it got hoisted to the top? Yeah. How many ton could you load in a day? Oh, a good man could load 18 or 20 ton. Okay. That's if he could get the cars. That was the problem, wasn't it, was the cars? Yeah. How many hours would you work down below mines? It ran an 8 hour a day. It was a - by that time you had the 8 hour day? Yeah. Okay. What kind of lights did you have at that time? Carbide. Carbide had come in by that time. Yeah. Okay. Did you work any with the electric lights? Yeah. Would you describe the electric light to me. First ones were hard to see by. But then they improved them and they got to be a good light. You carried a battery on a belt and your light on your cap. They're still in use in mines today, aren't they? Oh yes. The electric light. Right. Now describe a little bit, the carbide lamps. Well it come in two pieces. In the bottom part of your light, you put your carbide and in the upper part you put water and it was adjustable with a control on top so the water would drip, drip just certain intervals and that makes gas which would come out and you could light it. It had a little shield on the front with a burner in it. How good a light did that show you? It made a good light. Light enough that you could work with. Oh yeah. They made good light. Okay. When you were working in the mine was there anytime that you had any problems with a - oh getting hurt or anything like that? I had a big toe cut off but a - yeah there was accidents in the mine, still is. But you lost a big toe? Yeah. Do you mind telling

me how you lost that toe? At that time I was caging coal. That's when they pull the loaded cars onto the bottom, you disconnect them from the trip and push them onto the cage and ring the engineer and he pulls 'em up. The cage worked this way. One up and one down. Um um. And then when the one come down I grabbed it to jerk it off and the cage didn't seep by about that far and the car twisted when I jerked it and the bumper of the car caught me on the foot and the rail and cut my big toe off. Oh my and in those days they didn't get them attached on again. Oh no, no. But you didn't have any other really serious accidents? No, I didn't.

What was the difference in the mines after the union was recognized. You say Josephine Roach was the first to recognize the union or to agree to any of the demands? What was the difference there? Well for one thing, we had a, at that time the a stable wage, I think company work was \$7.10 a day, they also put one of their own men up in the tipple to check with the check weighman to see that the right man got the right amount of coal. They also elected what we called a pit committee to take up the grievances that men might have with the company. That was the big things and of course always the unions pushed for safety. How did they make the mines safer as time went on? Well for instance, goin' to electric lights was one thing. That was the big thing wasn't it? Yeah. What they call rock dusting was another. That's to cover coal dust with rock dust so it won't explode. Better ventilation and they had an educational campaign on all the time for safety through the State Coal Mine Inspector's Office and also through the State Educational Department, let see what was the name of it - names get away from me anymore I can't remember 'em. How long were you in the mines? Oh I think that 12 years would cover almost all the time I messed around with mining. Had you worked in any mine before you came to this part of the country? No. You hadn't worked in the mines down around Canon City? No. This was the first. You mentioned that you had done everything down there, when you started on the, well the bossing job, what were you doing? I was timbering. You was timbering. But I had taken, I'd studied and passed examinations to become Fireboss and also Mine Foreman. You had to take a state examination for those jobs. And you took those and then you became a Mine Foreman? Well, when a job opened up I was prepared to take it. First job I took was Fireboss. You go into the mine before anybody else goes in and inspects the mine and then you come out and the men can go in and go to work. You have to give them the ok before they can go in? Yeah. Why is that? Well it's a safety precaution. What were you checking for? You check for gas and for no interference with the air travel and that there's no caves that would be dangerous to anybody. Okay, how long were you a Fireboss before you went to Mine Foreman? I don't remember exactly, probably a year to 18 months. And which mine did you perform your Mine Foreman duties? At the Vulcan. Right here at the Vulcan Mine? Um Um. And how long were you Mine Foreman there? I was Mine Foreman on the night shift. I don't remember just how long I was on that job. How many men did you have working in the mine, in the Vulcan Mine? Oh about 75. Was that on the night crew? Pretty close. Okay. Do you remember some of the old timers that worked down there with you? Well, Joe Salazar, the reason I mention him is he's the grandfather of the gal that's running for city council. Joe Lindberg, Ross family in Louisville, Joe by the creek we called him, what was his name, he built this building down here on, just south on the hiway here. In other words these are old names that have been here in town all these years. Yeah. Did you or am I wrong in thinking that at one time you had something to do with the State Mine Inspector? Yeah, my dad was a Deputy Inspector and I worked for the State Inspection Department on safety programs with the Vocational Educational Department, that's what I was trying to think of. And how long did you do that? Oh I guess four or five years.

What was your duties there? Set up classes in all these mining camps to a, for people who wanted to take the examinations for Fireboss and Mine Foreman and also for first aid and mine rescue work. Okay. Tell me a little bit about this mine rescue. What was that for? That was primarily for the purpose of going into a mine after a bad fire or an explosion. You wore oxygen breathing apparatus and you had to train men in the use of those. How many men were on a team? Five. Five on a team. Yeah. And how many teams were there in the area? Did each mine have a team in other words? All the big ones did. All the big ones had teams? Yes. So if something happened these men were called. Yeah right. Were they ever needed? We used them at the Monarch when it exploded. We used them on the Western Slope when they had a bad fire in the mine around Peonia. Offhand I don't think of any right now. Okay. Were you still active in the mine or the mine business when the Monarch exploded? I had a team over there right after the explosion. Oh, you had a team there. Okay. Can you tell me a little about that? I've never talked to anybody that was there on the scene at the Monarch Mine explosion... As soon as we established that there was air, that there was circulation of air we went down below. We didn't have to use the oxygen breathing apparatus to start with. Because there was air going into the mine. Yeah. There was some circulation. We got back into what they call a pardon, that's where coal cars are collected, emptys, and loads and there was a big cave there, they had a seam underneath the one they were workin', they were workin' both of them, we went down to the second vein and we put out equipment on to go in the section there and we found what, I can't remember, three or four dead and there was one dead under the cave but we never got him out because it was too dangerous to stay there and try and move it. Is that the one that they have the monument over there for now? Right. How many were in that explosion? Do you remember? I think there were five or six killed. You see they were just a -- the day shift was just comin' on shift. Now it's a good thing they weren't in there. Or it could have been alot worse than it was? Oh yeah. How long would the rescue teams stay down in the mine? The equipment was built for two hours but we'd only use it for an hour.. So your shift was to be an hour down there and then one of the other crews would take over? Yeah. Okay, then you'd get your equipment ready again and then take your turn to go back down again? Yeah. What happened to that mine after the explosion, did it close down or did they get it back in operation or what happened? That belonged to the National Fuel Company. I don't believe they operated it again. In other words that ended the mine. I can't just remember. It was an older mine anyway, wasn't it? As I remember that was the end of the mine too. I don't think - it would cost too much to get it back in operation again. Yeah, yeah. As I remember, that was really the only bad explosion in this coal field. Yeah. I don't remember any other. No. But getting back to these rescue teams they were all kept at readiness all the time just in case. All the time.

What happened to most of the coal that was mined here? What happened to the coal? Yeah. Well Public Service bought alot of it. Okay. The Great Western Sugar bought alot of it and in the early days alot of people in Denver bought it. Why did the coal mines fade out in this part of the country? Well, for one thing strip mining come in. It was alot cheaper and safer to strip mine for coal than it was to dig a shaft and go underground. I can understand that. How deep is the coal here in this field? Oh a between three and four hundred feet. So it wouldn't pay, there's too much overburden there. It wouldn't pay to strip this coal here. Your rule of thumb is you can strip coal, an inch of coal you can strip a foot of soil. Okay. Course there's a breakoff point too but that's just a rule of thumb on that. But with the coal here what was too deep for the size of the veins to even warrant trying to strip it. Yeah, the veins were 6, 7 or 8 feet thick. That's an awful lot of dirt to strip to get to 6 or 8 feet of coal. Yeah, and look at the country you'd tear up. It'd be impossible to strip around here.

After you got out of the coal mine what did you do? Well I worked for the United Mine Workers as an organizer. I worked for the State Federation of Labor at the time the CIO and the State Federation got together in one organization. I was a vice president on the board of directors and also an organizer in that setup. I attended an International Convention of the United Mine Workers in Indianapolis along about 1929, '28 or '29. Were you active in the organization during the Southern Colorado problems? Only as an organizer. You did work as an organizer down in the south part of the state? Yes. Around which of the mines. Oh, Trinidad and Walsenburg. Okay. Did you ever get to the Ludlow? Oh, the Ludlow Massacre happened before I was down there. Okay. Yeah I had been to Ludlow several time. Tell me why there was such tremendous opposition to the union? People don't, nobody likes to be told what to do, do they? That's right. So the union had certain standards that they wanted to keep and a in submitting a contract they'd tell the operator what they wanted him to do. Well the operator didn't want to be told what to do. That's the thing in a nutshell. Okay. In most cases the union was fighting for the benefit of the men and trying to get conditions improved and wages improved and things like this that were going to cost the companies more money. Yeah. So that was one of the reasons they resisted it too on account they thought it was going to cost them too much money. It was a long fight to get the unions - yeah - recognized, wasn't it. Yes, um um. It didn't happen completely until Roosevelt told 'em in '33, I think it was, then they couldn't oppose it any longer.

Let's go back a little bit now and leave the mines for a minute, when you came to Lafayette back in 1911, tell me what businesses there were in the town. Well I wasn't too old but the company had a big store, general store. Who was manager of it, do you remember? Let see, who did Autrey follow? Seems like the guy's name was Perrill. And then Fred Autrey followed him? Yeah. And there was some saloons up here on the highway. Why were the saloons all on the west side of the street? Because they couldn't be on the east side on account of the - Mary Miller donated the ground to the town and she had a clause in there that they couldn't use any liquor, beer or stuff on the property. Okay. That's not in effect anymore, however? No. Two of her grandsons took it to court and had it taken out. Okay. I didn't know that. I'm glad to know that. When I bought my house down there, the clause was still in there at that time. Okay. Did you go to school here in Lafayette? I, for about two or three weeks. I finished school in Grand Junction. Oh, that's right, you told me you met Madge there. Yeah. This was in high school that you finished here? Okay and do you remember some of the teachers that were here? That isn't very long for you to get to know them but --. Seems like there was Mrs. Clark or Miss Clark, I don't know. How many were in your graduating class? Oh, in Grand Junction? Did you graduate in Grand Junction? Oh yeah. Oh, I thought you came here and graduated here. No, no I just went here not over a month. Oh, okay.

As you were in the State Legislature at one time, if I remember right. For three terms. For three terms, what years were they? I believe the first term was 1931, 1933 and 1935. So you were there for six years? Do you remember some of the issues that came up during that time? Old age pension, unemployment insurance, increase in workmen's compensation. They are all vital things to people. Um? These are very vital things to the people. Yeah. That's a -- are they still in effect? You bet. Stronger than they were. They have been amended and made stronger than they were to start with. Okay. Who were some of the people that were in the legislature with you? Fred, I think most of them are dead.. Mr. Graham just showed me a copy of a picture here that he had taken in 1937. The 31st Colorado General Assembly. He's in the front row here right next to Governor Ammons, did you say and Mr. Aspenal is right next to him. Was he sub-

sequently a governor too? No, he was Speaker of the House. Speaker of the House. And I was Democratic Floor Leader and the governor's programmer. This is a beautiful picture taken on the State House Steps down there in Denver. It looks like it was on the west steps, was it on the west steps? I don't know whether it was west or north. It kind of looks like the west steps but anyway it's a beautiful picture and it's a lot of history right here in this picture. Most of this legislation that you were talking about is very definitely people legislation and it sounds to me like you were very much interested in this type of legislation for the people and with your background I can understand that, because you were busy all of your life leading up to this type of thing working with and for people so right now I want to congratulate you from me to you for the work that I know you did down there. You were there as you say for six years, then why did you decide that you didn't want to go back? I had to make a living for my family. You wasn't getting enough down there to --? I got a \$1000 for two years. A \$1000 for two years. No I wouldn't say that you could live on that. Do they get a living wage now? Hell, they get what, seven or nine thousand dollars a year. Just for the time that they're down there, the few months that they're down there. Yeah. It was the Democratic and Republican Party at that time? Yeah. And you were a --? Democrat. You're a Democrat. Most of this area in here is Democratic, you were elected from this area and of course this is a Democratic area.

You were Mayor of Lafayette at one time too. When were you Mayor? Fred I can't remember. Was it in the 40's, 50's? When was the sewer system put in? I think that was put in in the '50's but I'm not certain, no it was put in in the late '40's Jimmy because it was put in before I went to Craig. I was Mayor when we put the sewer system in. Alright. What else did you have done while you were the Mayor? Streets paved, water meters put in, that was done over years, it wasn't done all at once. Oh yeah, I realize that. Do you remember who was on the city council with you at that time? Some of them. Well on one of the programs, Bill Davis was Mayor, wasn't it Bill Davis? Yeah. Tommy Lopez was one time, Lawson Gibson, Nip Lewis. What kind of proposition did you have to go through or what kind of rigamaroll, for lack of a better word, did you have to go through to get the sewer system put in the town? We had to cheat a little. Nothing against the law or anything. It took so much money to get a certain number of bonds and the bonding department into using some of their money to buy some of the city bonds to bring it up to where we had money enough to build the sewer system. I don't see anything wrong with that. Well some people thought there was. But it was all public money actually. Why sure and getting the sewer system in was a very definite need in this town because as I remember a lot of the places had so many septic tanks or cesspools they couldn't get anymore in their yards. Oh yeah, that's right. Did you have the same problem when you put the streets in? No, the streets a - we had two or three public meetings but they went along in good shape and most the people, there wasn't too much opposition to paving the streets. Once they found out just how - for instance they first raised "well I'm on the corner here I'm going to have to pay all this myself?" Before it was worked out to where they realized that it fell on the whole group that cut out most of the opposition. Why didn't they pave north of Baseline? Those people all signed up and didn't want it. Didn't want it, huh? Now they want it. They want it now, in all these years they've had all that dust and dirt. Okay. On these, did you have any opposition to the water meters? None, practically none. Well that's kind of strange, you know a - - - Well I'll tell you why I think Fred. We had to regulate hours and everything and we were trying to buy more water all the time, that's been one of the big projects here is gettin' all the water Lafayette needs. We fought that all the time. And then people kind of got up in arms, well this guy was allowed to water this certain time and I can't water this certain time and he's watering more than I'm watering and this guy down the street is watering more than he is. So we brought up the question of meters

and put the amount your allowed for a certain amount of money within a reasonable time and money consideration and that seemed to satisfy most of them, there was very little opposition to it. Well they knew they were going to pay for what they used and the other guy wasn't going to get anymore than them unless he paid for it. Right, Right. Alright I can understand that. How long were you on the city council and Mayor? I think I was Mayor maybe a couple of times. And I've been on the city council off and on since 1929 up until well Monte Does had me take somebody's place for a just short time. Somebody died or something, I forgot all about it. That was in the '70's if I remember, so you've been involved with the city for a long, long time. Yeah. What is your feeling about the way the city is growing? Well I'm a small town boy but there's nothing I can do about it and nothing I would do about it. This part of the country is going to grow so we just as well grow along with it. We either grow with it or we end up dead. And we should do the best job we can in growing up. Do you think the city is growing the way it should? Well I think some other things could have been done prior to moving everything on South Boulder Road. I think there should have been alot more thought developed for Simpson Street and its alright I guess they say City Hall was built free, course I've never seen anything free in my life. I think its already costing the people of Lafayette money even though it was built free. Its way out of town. Tell me what do you think the ultimate size of Lafayette will be? What is it 12 or 13,000 now? Well it was 12,000 according to the sign down here three years ago so its gotta be 13 or 14,000 now. But just what's your guess to the ultimate size of Lafayette? Oh I'd say in the next 15 years probably be 35 to 40,000 people. Good size city in other words? Yeah. And in your estimation we've got the facilities to handle that many people? I think the town boards have been doing a pretty fair job in getting hold of the necessary - well the necessary thing is water, everything else comes after water. Okay. Let's leave your public life now, I don't know how much time we've got left , but anyway, how long were you married? I got to spend 50 years with my wife. Fifty years. And when did Madge pass away? Some 10 or 12 years ago. Let see, the 24th of June would be my 60th wedding anniversary, wouldn't it? 1924. It would be your 62nd. Yeah that's right, it would be my 62nd wedding anniversary. What businesses were you in here in Lafayette? In 1921 I ran a poolhall under the old bank building down on Simpson Street. Tell me about that. I have never got anybody to tell me about that shop down there. Well there was room for two pool tables and a soda fountain and a counter. A couple of card tables and I bought it from Jack Metz. He started it. Did you have the bowling lanes down there too? Oh no. There were lanes in the basement of the company store. But there was a tunnel going from - around there to those. Was that there when you was there? No, there was a little room that was built under the vault. Were you there when the bank was robbed? No. This was after the bank was robbed? Yeah. You was in Lafayette when the bank was robbed? Oh yeah, oh yeah. What was your recollection of that? Well the thing I most remember was the dentist that had a dentist office in Bermont's building and they say he watched the bank robbers rob the bank and Fred Stubb's father was night watchman and I can't just remember how the stories related but it was more of a comic than any a as far as people are concerned. Was anybody hurt during that? No that I know of. Not that I can remember of. Did they get the money back? That I don't know. I dont' remember. Its been a long time ago. Yeah. Did you ever spend any time in the military? Never did. Okay. What did you do during the second world war as far as working for the war effort? What the hell was I doing during the second world war? I was running Jimmie's restaurant up here. And was you on the city council at that time? I could have been but I don't remember. As I remember you were. I'm gettin' some of my remeberances in on here too. Yeah, yeah.

How long did you run the restaurant up there? A little over six years. You and Madge ran that yourselves? Yeah. Tell me a little bit about the restaurant. Who you got it from? I bought it from Mrs. Blankenship and she worked for me along time after I bought it from her. And Mrs. Lock, they lived in this corner house at the time, she was one of my cooks. We had a good business. I'll show you one of my menus. We were just talking about the restaurant that Mr. and Mrs. Graham run up here and he has a copy of his menu here. I'm going to ask him to read off some of these things that he's got on this menu so they'll be in his words and the prices that are on this menu. This was in the late 1940's if I remember. Yes, that's right. Well we had 15¢ hamburgers, 22¢ Bar-B-Q Beef, Cheese sandwich 10¢ or 15¢, Peanut Butter 15¢, Ham Salad 15¢, Roast Beef 25¢, Salads was 15¢ and 10¢, Fruits were 10¢, Soups were 15¢, Sundaes were 15¢, Ice Cream Sodas were 10¢, Drinks were 5¢ and 10¢, Malted Milks were 20¢, Soft Drinks were 5¢ and a bottle of beer was 20¢. It's hard to believe isn't it in this day and age? It's hard to believe. Was there anything on there that you want to --? Well on the breakfast menu #1 was one egg, toast, brown potatoes, coffee and milk - 22¢, Hotcakes, coffee and milk - 20¢, 2 eggs, bacon, toast, brown potatoes, coffee and milk - 39¢, Hotcakes, Bacon or egg, coffee and milk - 32¢. Gosh. You can't even buy a cup of coffee for that, can you? No, you sure can't. And who did you sell the restaurant to? To Lee Baker. Lee Baker? And he leased it to the Anderson sisters. Lee never operated it himself? No. Okay. And he sold it to --- um. Did you ever belong to any of the lodges? One time I belonged to the Knights of Pythias. Okay. Did you ever belong to the fireman here? Yeah and I served my full five years. When I joined the fireman we could only stay five years. I don't think we got time to get into the initiation, fireman initiation. It was somethin'. It was somethin'. Go ahead and tell me a little bit about the fireman initiation. Well it depended alot on how you took it. It really was alot of fun. Nobody ever really got hurt bad. You got spanked a little bit and you were embarassed two or three times. Outside of that it was good clean fun. It was good pure mayham as I remember. But it was fun just the same after it was all over with. Yeah.

What in your adult life have you experienced that you're particularly proud of or that you've accomplished? Besides what you've done for the city. Well I guess the major thing right now I'm thankful that I'm in good health, I'm thankful that my kids are all around here and my grandkids and thankful for the love of a family. I'm thankful for the many friends that I've known and still know and I'm thankful that I've accomplished some of the things in life that I think are worthwhile. I think that's greater than all riches. I think your right and I think that's great that you feel that way about it. We're about to the end of our tape Jimmie and I want to thank you again for letting us come and talk to you. This has been - I enjoy doing this because I love to hear about - you know alot of course I remember too and still I appreciate the fact that you take the time to give us your recollections of what happened here. Well I don't mind doing, I think you owe your life to the future. Because all that you've accomplished is going to affect the future. That's right. So why not your life. That's right. Let's start over again.

Jimmie, what did the depression do to you? Personally, I had a job that paid \$100 a month. So that didn't affect me. Everything else around it did affect me. You couldn't help but feel the dejection and the disappointment in people's faces as you talked to them traveling around the country trying to find a job or something to eat, lines of people, they talk about the soup kitchens, they had soup kitchens. It was a bad, bad time. The sad part about it was manmade. Nature had nothing to do with it. The people made it theirselves. I guess we had some smart men come on the field and do some changing of things that brought us out of it. Some of them are condemned now for some of the programs they started but a that's only natural. Sure. You say you had a job

during that time, where were you working? I set up the first state employment office. Had an office in Boulder. In other words you were working for the state? Yeah, Okay. For a \$100 a month. Now this was before you went to the legislature? No, it was after. It was after you went to the legislature? Yeah. See that happened what - the crash came in '29, didn't it. '29. Yeah. Well when did I set that office up? It must have been in the '40s. So it was after you were in the legislature? Yeah. During this time, what did it do to the mining industry in this country? The depression? With your experience with the mines and your background in the mines what did it do to them? I don't know. I think they were probably affected more than any of the industries because if I remember correctly, along about that time and just as things was comin' back natural gas was introduced into this part of the country and that meant that coal was fallin' off sales. Oil was coming in as a heating agent and I think that was the starting of the slowdown of coal mining. Okay. So there isn't any mining left in the country here now anymore is there? None that I know of around here. All gone. I think there's one coal mine in Colorado? The Allen Mine down in Trinidad? There isn't any in this field at all? There might be one little mine in the south field out of Florence. But that would be all of them. You mentioned alot of the friends that you have here now that you're older, tell me who some of them are and how long they've been here. Fred, most of them are up on the north side of 7. Yeah, more everyday too. Oh gosh. Who do you eat with down here, who do you have lunch with? Oh Charlie Stephens, Dean Ross, Lawson Gibson, six of us use to meet in the old Plum Tree. There's only two of us left out of that six.