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Ponzo (Frank) Mastriano, John (Greekie) Lewis, Boughton (Boots) Noble

Interviewer: Fred Stones

This is Fred Stones on July 1, 1986. I'm at the home of Ponzo (Frank) Mastriano and with us are Greekie (John) Lewis - he's always been known as Greekie - an Boughton (Boots) Noble. We're here this afternoon on the regular Tuesday afternoon session for the Library for the historical remembrances of Lafayette. I'm just going to turn this over now to these three boys and just let them visit. So, have at it, boys, and just have fun.

Boots: When LaJuan Swallow, down there, when they told her they wanted to interview Boughton Noble, she said, "Who in the hell is that?" When they told her Boots, she said, "oh".

John, Greekie to me, - bring it up about Chipmunk, Jim Phillis.

Greekie: Well, Jim Phillis moved into the camp in 1920 and that's where we became buddies. We were always in trouble. They'd come after us down at the Simpson Camp - Fred Stubbs and them - and they'd come up and get Pete Williams and Si Snow and those guys up town. But, anyway, Jimmy and I got to be pretty close. We used to hold track meets over there. (We had a stove lid for a discus) We'd invite the Mastrianos down there. And Garcia, we ran him around the camp, you know, he was a long distance guy. (He was.) By the time he made about four rounds, he got so white, he was ready to pass out. We used to use these for a javelin - those tall weeds, remember how they used to grow tall around the camp there? And we'd have the ends of them - (see how far we could throw them) Yeah, And we had hurdles, you know, little hurdles. And Jimmy was a pole-vaulter and he'd get an old broken pole from the high school, remember they used a bamboo pole then. So we were out there and he was pole-vaulting and it was kind of a dreary day, remember that Frank? (Yeah) And all of a sudden, he ran into the house and, my god, he came runnin' out of the house, he was ascreamin' and he was runnin' up to Doc Porter's. Couldn't figure what happened. Well, when he got in the house, he jammed one of those slivers right in the meat part of his hand there and he couldn't see it until he got in the house. It was hurtin' and he got scared so he ran up there and that was the last time we seen him, you know, goin' over the hill; we couldn't keep up with him.

Ponzo: I'll have to tell you another one too before it gets away from me. (When he went huntin'?) Yeah, when we was goin' huntin', me and Greekie - (No, I wasn't with you). Me and Tut. Who was Tut? My brother, Tony Mastriano. Anyhow, he had a gun that you didn't have to touch the trigger - that son-of-a-buck would go off. So, we'd be in front of him scarin' up the pheasants or rabbits or whatever. So we got down by the Standard Mine dump and he stopped to tie his shoelaces or whatever and he laced that damn barrel right then and it went off. (No, he was holdin' it under his arm, you know and he went to pull a sticker out). Whatever, it went off. We was about from here to the alley ahead of them and he passed us 60 miles an hour, bleedin' like hell, "I'm dyin', I'm dyin'". So we go to the clerk. (Rich). Yeah, Roy Rich was the clerk. (at the mine). He says, "You god damn guys get the hell out of here and I'll take Monk to Doc Porter". We had to walk - we beat him there. We run up through the field and we beat him. He took Monk and put him on

the table and says, "Oh, my God, this is bad". (Who, Doc Hurt?) No, Doc Porter; so was Hurt runnin' around. He says, "Do you think he'll live?" And then they says, "Get in touch with his dad, we're going to amputate". Holy Christ, you shoulda heard Monk. "Don't give me ether, don't give me ether".

We were watchin' the World Series. Remember how Public Service used to have -. It became Public Service, see. And we were watching the thing and Lennie Metz used to stand behind and he had a bamboo and he put BBs in his mouth, you know, and he'd fire them and they'd hit that glass so we picked that up and started hittin' the screen in the show window. (There was a lot of tricks in those days).

Talkin' about the shows. You talk about the guys. Monk was - the guys playin' the piano, you know one of those self players, what the hell ever it was. (player piano). Yeah, he left the door open and we'd all get in there. Carper - they knew how many was in there, they could tell by the tickets. Carper - he let us in. Carper let us in when we had that American Legion team. Old Swede - remember him? Well, old Swede, he'd be walkin' down and he'd be lookin' at a lot of people, wondering where they were comin' from so he'd go up there and ask the ticket taker. 25 tickets and the show was loaded. All came in the back door. No, the side door. We'd crawl in. We'd crawl up under the seats. That was better than how we went down through the coal chute, and up through the stairway. We'd come up dirtier than a coal miner. And he knew this was goin' on.

He (Monk) used to get paid on Sunday, you know. He was getting 50¢ a night and he'd get \$3.50 for the week. So, I was out there - I always tell this story - you get a good laugh out of it. I said to Jimmy, I said, "Loan me a nickel". He says to me, "I don't want to break a dime".

How about the girl he was running around with? He made a date with a Jacobs, Doris Jacobs. He took her out on a payday night. He took her down to Peletears(sp). We were all waitin' for Jimmy, "How'd the party go?" "Jimmy, how was it?". "Oh, hell, she was a gold digger; she ordered a malt". Well, he was the only guy that had money all the time; he had a few bucks in the bank. He'd sell popcorn. He'd never give you an extra bag or anything.

Do you know why him and Greekie used to have money like that all the time? Their dads would give them money to up to the barbershop. It was before Jimmie Witt, what was his name, that barber, before Jimmie? Alexander. No. Tommy Myers. Well anyway, their dads would give them money to go up there to have a haircut. What did they do? Come to you? Yeah, we lived over there where Mrs. Angevine lives now and they'd go out there and I'd cut their hair. One time, I knicked Jim pretty good. And they'd pocket the money and go spend it.

Now tell them about the story, Greekie and Monk and me were coming up from the Simpson Mine and we stopped at your house and you and Greekie got into a wrestlin' match or something there. Monk was standing close and making fun and laughin' and you grabbed him by the leg. I never saw so much stuff roll out of a pantleg he had stole from Greekie. (No, that wasn't the time). Wasn't it? I thought it was at Boots' house. Was that the time you chased him half way to Louisville? Yeah.

Remember Heiserman? Henning. Well Heiserman was there before Henning. He starved to death and when Henning come in here, they started popping off like flies with spinal meningitis, 1927, wasn't it? Yeah, it was during the strike. Killed six. The poor guy got out of the business; he sold out. He sold out to Powell.

We should tell somebody this; a lot of them don't believe there was a mortuary out Simpson. Yeah; right there by the barbershop. I remember that; somebody went up to find something in the attic and they found a casket. They've got it in the whatchamacallit. You mean that one there in the Rocky Mountain - the historical building? Yeah.

That was the good old days. You didn't have much but you got along. You got by. I don't think you guys were ever hurting, Boots, were you? I don't think so. You guys had something to eat all the time. And the other guys, Red and Bill Bush - them guys were - and then there was Dave Allen and Bush - Those guys had a little. There was Harold Bush and Bill Bush and Bob Bush. Red Bush was the toughest and Bill was the strongest, remember Bill? He come out for football, he was like a baby but if he got ahold of you, boy, he'd break your neck.

I can remember we were playing football and the redhead, which one was that? Harold. He got hit and boy, he went into spasms. Convulsions, We never saw anything like that. It takes a little something out of you. I think Fort Lupton, wasn't it? That was the game we went down and seen Dutch Clark at the University of Denver playing football. And there was five points scored in the game and he scored them all. A field goal and a safety. He argued on the play - you never hear about it now - that went on the corner of the pole. It went over the post. The corner of it. He won the decision. I can remember who was the coach and I can remember who the referee was. It was Rider, the referee was Rider; he never refereed another game in that Conference, the Rocky Mountain Conference. Jimmy and I used to run up and down the sidelines, you know. When Dutch Clark, they dropkicked then, when he dropkicked and it went over there and the referee opened his mouth and said - too bad, it just went over the pole, you know. He said, "Did it go over the pole?" He said, "Yeah". So he grabbed him and took him over to the bench where Vandigraff(sp) was the coach and they got the rule book out. And they had to allow it.

Monk got by with more than anything I ever seen. At any football game, he never had to spend a dime. He grabbed Dutch Clark's helmet one time when they were running in from C.U., you know the fieldhouse. Well, I remember one year, we made it into just about every game; we dressed as coaches. Jimmy passed me off to Armstrong as a Utah coach, remember when he was going great? There was a guy by the name of Pappas playing for him. So we were, Aitkins was the equipment manager so he'd let us come through. It used to be fenced in there where they'd work out. So he'd come out and tell us to go out there. Jimmy said - he was a tackle for Armstrong - he says how's Pappas do you ever hear from him? He says, yeah, I used to hear from him once in a while. Jimmy says - well I've got his cousin here - he just graduated from high school and he's looking for a place to go. We got talking and he says - you guys wanta watch a game? So we go in. He gets us in and just before the team comes down the steps they used to play the National Anthem, you know. Over on the other side, we'd make a bet, see.

One time, there was Johnny Lawares(sp) another game, that was when you're thinking about, it was Missouri, there was Mark Christman, the quarterback, and there was Jenkins, the fullback. So we were dressed in overcoats and Johnny Lawares and all the Lafayette guys just back there with Farru(sp), Don Farru, you know, he was the coach and they were beggin' to get in. Jimmy and I got up with the front of the line so as we were going through the gate and we told Christman and Jenkins what we were trying to do - we were going to see if we could crash the gate. They said okay. Do you remember that play now going around that end, something like that, pertaining to football. We walked by. Johnny and them, all of them, coming up there, Farru - no, they're not with us, they're not with us, weeding them all out. And then Blanchard was the high school coach over at Wyoming high school but they promoted him to Wyoming University. Well, they only used to have about 15-16 guys, you know so we asked Blanchard if we could sit on the bench. He said, "Sure, come on; we'll make it look like we've got a lot of guys".

I can remember one time; this was about 1924, around there, I'm not sure, but anyway, Will Rogers was up there and Tony Guinella and I were there and somebody said, "Will Rogers is up there". We ran up on that stand; ask Tony about it. We grabbed his coat; what the hell did we know about fame then? He was there to see the football game? Yeah, he was standing up there; it was cold, you know. So everybody was getting around him.

I can remember when Hatfield Chilson(sp) - that was in 1924 when that field was built. About that. Remember Hatfield Chilsen? And those two brothers - Ham Beresford? Yeah, Ham and Stu. They were great at C.U. - one was a sportswriter for the Camera; Stu was the best football player (?). But, they played that great team that Montana State had; they had Thompson and Brick Breeden(sp). They played C.U. and they won the national title, this Montana team. They had Thompson. Gee, they had one hell of a good team. For those days. He used to play third base in Lafayette on the town team. Remember, he'd come over and play third base once in a while. Nobody liked him though. No, everybody would holler at him, "Here comes Cat Thompson".

(?) He was supposed to guard Cat Thompson. Ward, Ward was the center. Braden. They had two brothers on there and that was the best team I saw for years. They even went back there and played Charlie Hyatt. He was supposed to be the best basketball player in the United States. Then came this guy from San Francisco, Italian guy. Oh, Hank Lusetti(sp). Boy, we used to break our neck to go down and see. I saw him and Pollard(sp) play against one another when I was in the Service out there. He was a good one, too, Pollard. Yeah, he was out of high school when he came here. AAU was he? There was some good ones, I used to like that; you'd see a lot of basketball. Now it's all gone. It's all money now. It's cheaper to get them out of college. They're getting kids out of there now and look what's happening with the dope. I'm glad they got to that; they've got to go farther, there's too many on it.

Let me ask you so I can refresh myself about your softball games in the '30s. We had a hell of a great team, let's put it that way. Wilber Mays(sp), Bill Mays, Zaika(sp), Romano, Sutak, Fred Milliken, myself, Tut, my brother, Everett West, Tommy Treasure. We had enough ball players, we divided up. (I went to Black Diamond) and we stayed with Longmont Aces and they were mostly filled with Lafayette guys. And we played for the State Championship down in Canon City and Mikey was pitching for you guys. We had Olsen. Centennial, Centennial Coal. We happened to win the thing and we went back there but we took some of their players. You had Bill Nace and Lane, remember Lane - outfielder. Yeah from the State Mine; that's where he was workin'.

I want to refer back to - . See we were always getting in trouble when we were kids. We used to hear what Spickard(sp) and those guys used to do. We tried to emulate them. We'd get in trouble playing pranks. So one time I got an idea from Fort Lupton; they were the Blue Devils. I had a red shirt and I printed a devil on the back of it. This one time we were playing a ball game up at the park there at the high school. And I can remember I was pitching. I was going pretty good; I was striking guys out and all that. It looked like I was in a dream out there; I didn't realize how sick I was. So I heard a guy in the background, hollering, you know pulling for us. Remember who was pulling for us when we were playing? I don't even remember who the players were at that time. We had a pick up team, see. This guy was hollering for us; I could hear him hollering to me, telling me what to do. So I went home after the game; I was running a temperature and it took about a week before I got well enough to come out of the house. I was walkin' up toward the City Hall and this guy that was hollerin' at the ball game was walkin' by and he was congratulating me on the game. He says, "You guys got a good ball club there". Well, his name was Short; he came from back where they had the Mack Trucks. He used to play some with Columbus or somebody back there. I asked him, "Would you like to manage our team?" He said, "Yeah". He was out here for his health; he was staying up next to Elmo Lewis' - remember that gal that used to live there - the old lady, she was a widow - they had a daughter. Phillips. No, not Phillips - next door. In between Campbell Lewis and Phillips; that house that had a long porch on it. Yeah, it's still there. Anyway, he was staying there and was out here for his health.

So he took us guys and that's when all of us straightened out. He worked us three times a day. This was 1928. He'd work us out in the morning; we'd start about 10:00. He never cussed or anything. He always called us pot-lickers, remember? We'd work out in the morning. We were getting ready for the tournaments, I guess. And he drilled us and drilled us and taught us inside baseball that even the older guys, the old town team didn't know. Then we'd work out at 2:00 in the afternoon and then we'd go up there and work out with the town team when they got through or we'd be there a little before.

They didn't allow us to go swimmin' so one time a bunch, I wasn't with the group, were you with them when they went up to the Plant Lake and he snuck up there and took a picture of you guys out there in the nude.

So we got pretty good and we entered this tournament, you know that was the elimination and we were over in Boulder and we'd never played on grass before. So I was playing short and Ambrose Garcia was third and Monk was second, Frank was pitchin' and playing the outfield some. Roy Wendt, Tut and Andy Roebuck(sp). Milliken was pitching. Doe Dyer(sp) was our mascot. He was our mascot. We were taking infield. He'd hit that ball, you know, and that thing would go and go right through us. I don't know how many rounds he made, about three rounds and we never stopped the ball. Boy, he called us all in and he says, "Doe, sack up those bats; we've been workin' three months and he can't even stop a ball; sack up those bats, we're goin' home". So we're beggin', "Oh, please". He says, "All right". So, honest to God, we go out there and we caught everything that was hit. We beat - I can't recall if we played Boulder first or Fort Collins but we beat them both by 14-2 or 15 to some, so now we're eligible for the American Legion, for the State. Boy, that was a big thing in town; all the merchants were for us. I think the first game we played was Brighton and we beat them. And Harper's leave us in the show, you know and we'd go down to Peletears(sp) over there, they'd give us drinks, malts, everything, see. So the second game, I can remember we played Grand Junction. So we beat them. Jimmy's got all that stuff, I think he gave it to the museum. Then it came down and we played Jack Paynes(?). They were the hot team, you know, that's Byers, Shapiro and all the guys that had been leaders around there for a long time. So we knocked them off. That's three teams we knocked off. So finally, the last team that we played was Pueblo and they had these big guys - the Matevi brothers, remember - Welshy and them gettin' in the fight up in the grandstand. Anyway, we beat them. So, what do they do, I can't understand, we hadn't lost a game, those two teams, we beat them both. And instead of making them play together to see who plays us, we had to play two games in that one afternoon. So we were out of pitching. Claude Macrelli(sp) he tore his pants, he was scared to get out there on the mound, remember?

I don't know how many games I pitched. I was tired and this guy came in to relieve me and then I'd play shortstop. So it was tough. But they cheated us out of it, that's all there is to it. We didn't have enough sense to protest. What are you going to do? They had this guy Newsome, or somebody, Jimmy would know his name. They had one hell of a team, this Jack Paynes(?).

Newsome sounds right. Yeah, he was the umpire; he used to work for the Post.

How did Dr. Hurt figure in all this? Doc Hurt played second base. Then there was George Webster, George Stott(?), Micky Ward and Cliff. And the guy that used to run this store here - Claude Dollar. We used to get some players from C.U. Bill Brough(sp) was the pitcher. And a guy by the name of Graves was the catcher.

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Dave Henderson had a hell of a good ball team. Jimmy Hicks was one of the best. Then he used to have a couple of players in here that they got to come over from the State Mine. One of them was Bill Lloyd wasn't it? I'll tell you another that used to play here - Jack Quintana used to play shortstop. George Quintana was pitcher and first baseman.

Bill Lloyd in Lafayette, I was at that game. Wrather was at bat. It wasn't at Lafayette, it was at Puritan when Wrather took that bat and -. No, he hit Bill Lloyd on the chin and he went up in the air and came flat down on his goddam face. The guy weighed about 220; Wrather wasn't scared of nobody. He was a good athlete. I gotta rank him as Lafayette's best. Did he hit him intentionally? Yeah. We got a controversy here, whether it's here or at the Puritan. No, it's at the Puritan Mine, I hitch-hiked over there. Yeah, it was at the Puritan Mine. He was needling him some way, you know, Wrather. So Wrather didn't like what he said and Bill Lloyd started after him and Bill Lloyd threw his mask, remember, and he was goin' with his bat like this until he got clearance here and he threw the bat off on the side and he hit him and, boy, did he flop, just like Ponzo said. He didn't hit him with the bat, though? Oh, no, he just used the bat to get away from him, you know, because he was crowdin' him, see.

Now is it true that Lafayette won a track meet in Brighton and Wrather scored all points? No, North High. It was him and Dump Nell(?). Dump was the pole vaulter. The two of them won the track meet. Wrather was one great athlete, boy. In anything, basketball, running, boxing, he done every damn thing. Well everybody used to beat up on him - he wouldn't bother anybody - until he went to that Citizen's Military Camp that they used to go in the summer and he took up boxing. He was the champion of the ROTC. What was his first name? Earl. Him and I graduated from high school together. They called him Tarpole. I can tell you stuff that I don't want on here. Boy, he didn't like that name, Tarpole. Oh, no, he sure didn't. What happened to him? He just died here a year or so ago. About three or four years. That's my cousin my marriage. Where did he go from here? Arvada. He was a cop down there for a long time, then he went to Gates. He went to the mine first - Leyden Mine. Gertie's mother run the boardin' house; that's where they met. And then he was the Police Chief at Arvada and from there he went to Gates. Bradley used to stay there at his house.

You know, one time, and this is goin' back quite a ways, we had to walk to school and we got here and we couldn't get back; there was a hell of a snow storm, three, four, five feet. Us kids that walked stayed with the Wrathers; some stayed with Bob Johnsons, they had to spread us out, you know, for two or three days. That was wonderful. Greekie used to live where Wrather was. Bob Johnson was there. Was that over there on Cleveland Street? Yeah. (Greekie) - We bought Wrathers house, see. What year was that snow storm? About 1920. Before we had the flood down at the Standard; it took three or four houses. It was '21. Okay. The biggest snow storm they had was about 1913. It was better than five foot. Were you all here in 1913? Yeah, oh yeah.

Tell me about the storm; what did you do? Stayed home, I guess. Well, we stayed here until the damn stuff melted away so we could get home. A lot of people got stuck in Denver and they were trying to hitch-hike. My oldest brother, I remember in that 1913 snow storm, he made me a pair of snowshoes to get around in.

Do you remember 1919 when the flu hit? Do you know where they where they hauled us? To where the old Library. The old Library was the Christian Church then. That's where we stayed. We were layin' on the floor. I don't know what the hell you'd call it; just a place to lay down, that's all. Did they use this as a form of hospital then? Yes. My sister that died nursed up here. There was a lot of them there; they lost a lot of people. Right after the flu epidemic was over with she had a heart attack and she was only 23 years old.

After this, see that little creek, what is it Coal Creek? See that little thing, what damage it done. They had a cloudburst in 1921. It took six homes. My mother gathered all us kids, there was about six of us then, going up through the field, you know, duckin' under fences so we could get up above the water. Would you believe a creek like that holdin' that much goddam water? That's the way Arizona is; they don't have no drainage.

By the way, your sister that was out here from Northglenn, what was her first name? Bertina. Because I know she went to school here, I think she was just a year or two back of me. I remember when I talked with her down at your doins Sunday. She was the oldest of the bunch. She eats too much; that's her problem. They put her on a diet and she invites us all to eat. She looks for a while and pretty soon, she digs in. A lot of bread, you know and all of them fancy goodies, she goes for. I imagine she's about 220. I remember her in school. She remembers you, "Is that Boots over there?" I said, "Yeah, that's Boots". Were you all in the same class at school? No. At our time, the whole damn high school was in the grade school. First to the twelfth. The whole school together. And then they built the middle school up here, and it turned into the high school.

I can't understand _____ (?)LaSalle saying the ball park was up there. He still thinks he's right. Well, you can't argue with him. You know where the ball park was. Where the park is now? No, it was next to the - do you know that road that runs by the - what street is that - Baseline - you mean Oak? Yeah, Oak Street. Well, that's back where the football field is now. Well, you know where the Middle School is? Cause I hit a ball through the damn - a - Williams was the physics teacher - what the hell was he? Earl Williams. You know where the other building is behind the Middle School there? Right behind there was the goddam ball field. Where the park is? Right, softball, no baseball. Well, Johnny James and I worked on it. First they made a swimmin' pool out of it; we called it Braden's Lake. And then we had to come back and fill it when they had the injunction. We called it Fraser's Island. Yeah; that was boarded; that was fenced in after. Then they tore it down. You see the ball field - you remember where the old school used to be? Yeah. Two story building. Well, it was right next to it, just a little ways north. Yeah, northwest. Well that's where the football field was. It was just inside of that road. I can remember Jimmy used to be mascot there. I peddled pop for old Gus Pappas when Henderson had the ball team. If you made a dime or 15¢ sellin' pop, you was the luckiest guy in the world.

In those days, you used one ball for nine innings; they only had two, so you had to have ball shaggers. Some would get away with it. Boy if it rolled down that road, it took you an hour to get it; it's be way down there by the show, almost. If it went that far, you kept the ball; you kept goin'.

When we played basketball back in the mid 20s there, if anything went wrong with your equipment, it was up to you. See it wasn't like having everything furnished to you like nowadays. In them days, I had to go down to Spauldings, I believe, in Denver to get that basketball and I hooked a ride with a milk truck down there and back to get that thing fixed up for the next basketball game. It got a leak or puncture or something.

How many of you guys remember Stack Herbert? Okay, before we ever had the Red Devils which was a hell of a good ball team ; I've got to say that myself. And everybody stayed out of trouble after that. Stack was on our ball team. Yeah, I remember, he went and stole all the high school suits out of Manual Training Shop. They had red uniforms, remember? And we were out there, boy, and here comes the cops. That was before Short. And we all had one of those suits on, and hell, we didn't know he stole them. And here comes the coach. Remember a guy by the name of Johnson? He was the coach. He was the football coach. He got his education at Fort Collins. Do you remember a guy that didn't go to college and was managin' the team when they beat Windsor - the Windsor Wizards. Do you remember? Maupins(sp). Gene Maupins - they had a furniture store, I'll tell you, do you know where the Senior Center is now? Do you know that new building that they remodeled on the corner? Well, it was just straight across the street, there was a little building there. A little furniture store. Don Cliff, Ted Cliff, Wrather, Joey Phillips, Fox, Dyer, Harry, my brother, - that team beat the Windsor Wizards.

You know, they already had won the National Championship. They won it two years in a row. I was trying to remember who else was on that team; there was some big guys. Oh, I know, Ted Williams. But that's the biggest team I ever seen in Lafayette. Most of those guys got sued for breach of promise in the sixth grade - that's how big they were. Boy, they were big! I was thinkin' - Phillips' cousin, Don Schultz. Was Roy Spickard on that team? He used to play baseball, I know, for the high school. Now he graduated in '25 with Harry and the rest of them. But I can't remember whether he was on the team. He was a good lookin' kid, boy. I say, What was the one that got in the wreck? Glenn. Glenn who? Glenn Ward. The girl got - Phyllis Rosenbaum. Beautiful girl. She had a sister by the name of Florence. Then Roy and Carol. Who had the two best lookin' girls in town at that time? I want to see if you guys come up with the same person I do. He had two beautiful daughters, this guy. The guy I know that had the two most beautiful daughters ran the show. I don't remember them but I remember Doc Porter's two daughters. Oh, yeah, Enase and Virginia Porter. You talk about some two beauties, boy! I didn't know Doc Porter was ever married. Oh, yeah. His wife, she died - she was a heavy-set woman and she contracted double pneumonia. He come out here from Pittsburgh and establish his practice here in Lafayette because he had T.B. He brought a brother with him that had T.B. too by the name of _____ or Marv Porter. When my Dad was in the machine shop, there, he gave Doc Porter's brother a job, handy man or something, in the machine shop. And Doc Porter had two daughters? What happened to them? Well, one of them married a guy by the name of Hauter(sp) in the drug store in Boulder. That was Virginia. The other married that oil guy that oiled the streets. Remember the guy, the nice looking guy, that was the engineer - when he put the pavement in, he handled all that field. Ted Allison was his name.

What was the guy that was Charlie Scoals(?) kid? What was his name? You mean his brother? His brother was Art. There was a good athlete. And he was one of the best lookin' guys you'll ever see. He had a heel off or something. No, he was the one that shot Willie Reese's heel; shot him in the heel with a shotgun. And Art lost his heel. He used to high jump. He was a good athlete.

What was the name of Allen? What was Allen's first name? Skid. No, Earl. I think it was Earl. They called him Skid - best dressed guy in town, goin' to school. A nice lookin' guy. What relation was he to Van Sike? Well, you see, Van Sike's wife was his aunt. You come up with the name of Van Sike - wasn't he in with Harry Grief up there at the Chevrolet? Yeah, when it was on the corner. We had more garages in town at that time, we had Weber's Garage over here. I can tell you some stories that happened in that garage. Webers - that's the old barn burnt down, remember, and that's when they built this new place that's there now and that's where Doc Hurt had his offices. He had them across the street before too.

Remember Raymond, Doc Raymond? During that holdup in 1924 when they robbed the bank? They were taking fingerprints; Jimmy Phillis, 12 years old. That's when we were pickin' up coins and goin' across the street and gettin' a bar of candy for 'em. Lenny Metz' brother-in-law was runnin' the drug store. That's when Jake got shot, Jake Alderson. Coming up the alley - he got shot through the thigh. They were cleanin' out the bank and all these guys was over there, you know, and there was gold pieces. All these guys thought they were pennies. I knew what they were. They were throwin' them off at the side and I was grabbin' them. The sheriff came and wanted to know what the guys were doin' with these things; we were gettin' candy for them. I think that guy lost about two or three hundred dollars worth of candy. You know, Stubbs, the old man Stubbs was the night watchman and they tied him up to a pole. They just tied his hands and hooked him up on one of those hooks; he was a little short guy. Jimmy and I used to walk at nights with him. I don't know whether he was scared or not, but we were about 12 years old, for cryin' out loud, two in the morning. A cop, you know, you'd think he'd throw you in or send you home. Boy, we'd march up and down the streets with him and he was glad to have us. Do you remember one of those torpedos went through Joe Brown's shoe store across the street? Whats the torpedo? Well it was a piece of metal from when they blew the bank up. It made a hell of a noise. In back of that was the blacksmith shop - the Nelson brothers - Abbie and George Nelson. We used to sneak out of school and come down there and (watch) the World Series. Mathias was the score keeper; he had a big blackboard up there. Boy, it was interesting, in those days, jiminee. They had a crystal set or some damn thing they were gettin' it off of. It was in the blacksmith shop? No, in their yard. In their house, on the outside, on their porch. And we had a hell of a time watchin' the game and watchin' for the They'd move the players around as the game progressed. Yeah, they'd mark an X for a hit or a zero for a strikeout. Henry Mathias was pretty good at that job.

Now tell them about the time we went up to Wyoming to try out for a job. Oh, yeah, we went up to Wyoming, Ponz and I, we were going to get a job; we were mad at Cruz or somebody managing this team over here, you see. So we went up there and it's raining and everything (for three days) so what was it, a Safeway Store or something comparable to that to get on the team. Oh wasn't that Piggly Wiggly? Probably. I remember we went up there and asked for a job to play softball. And they turned us down. They said they didn't need anybody. So we started coming down and I had the tightest pair of shoes I ever had in my life; I couldn't walk. They were grading the road and I was afraid Ponzo was going to run and leave me, so I got telling him, I says, "Ponz, now dammit, whatever you do, don't run away, these coyotes attack you. So, I was telling him that to hold him with me because if he ever got scared, he'd leave you a mile. So, we'd walk down and pick up a lantern. You know, they know they had the lantern where they would windrow the sand out in the middle of the road. We couldn't catch a ride either way. So we had to stay at that depot that night. Then we got back on the road the next day. We had a quarter. So the guy that was in back would give the quarter to the guy in front because if he got a ride why this guy would have something to eat on. So, how the hell

did we end up? Well before you get to that - there was a car turned over on the side of the road. We was trying to turn that son-of-a-buck back over from its side so we could get in there, you know. The coyotes were howlin'; they sounded like they were right there. And we seen a light and it was only a few miles - I swear that son-of-a-buck was 20 miles. It was the last chance. It was the last store in town, boy! Well, you had the quarter. You ended up with it too. He got in back; no, he left me back. He said, "I'll go up front; you catch the first one". You had the quarter, then. So I got the ride. A guy came with about 12 milk cans on it and I had to ride the cans. I hollered, "Hey, would you stop for my buddy?" He says, "You want a ride or let that guy go?" I says, "Keep goin'". So I went through Greeley, all the way round to Denver and this guy hooked a freight or something and come through Fort Collins. Through Brighton - we cut across on Brighton Road. 2:30 in the afternoon; I never had so many sore feet in my life. And in those days, hitch-hiking was easier than it is now by a hell of a lot. We went way around that way, and who in the hell gives me a ride on Federal? Old Mike Colacci - he saw me and knew me and he gave me a ride and left me off at Rickard's Corner, cause that's where he turned to Louisville and I had to walk the rest of the way. I don't think I left the house for a week. That rain and that scared the hell out of me, I'll tell you that. When we got ten miles out of there, we couldn't catch a ride with those big trucks; they'd splash crap all over you - mud and water. And then we'd get on the other side to try to go back to Cheyenne. We never made it either way.

Tell me some of your school experiences. Well, me and Greekie got to play five years; did you play five years, do you know anybody else, Boots? I know me and him did; I played five years and one year I think I went out of the eighth grade twice. They put you up in the ninth and then they'd drop you back. I played one year out of the seventh. When was that 1921? Well, we moved up the next year when the high school was built. When was the high school, the new one? The new one was built in '25. Well, we moved up the next year, '26. '25 I think when you were coachin' it. I got to thinkin' today - remember the suits - Johnny James' class, the eighth grade had - do you remember what color they were? Yellow, I think. They were orange and they had a big white stripe here. That was eighth grade. Orange and - blue, I guess. And we were blue and white and I was in the sixth grade and Johnny was in the eighth and Johnny was seven years older than I was. So, I got to thinkin', gee, I thought I was late in school. They had a good team. Yeah, they had Ardell Hines. They had the judge's kid, too. Sheeley. Remember, he was an ornery son-of-a-buck. But we got to play five years, Greekie only four here that I can recall, cause you went to Erie once. He couldn't get a pair of shoes from Angevine, so, he says, "Shoes, or I'm leavin'". Oh, naw, naw. You've got that story mixed up. I always had a habit, you know, when school started, I'd get my classes and then I'd go into Angevine and I'd want him to change them; I didn't like the teacher or somethin', see. So, I was workin' Public Service then when we were puttin' up line that come back of your yard. So Joe Dyer and I were workin' and I stayed there; I was makin' 50¢ an hour, \$4.00 a day and that was real good. So I stayed out of school about a month. The job ended and I came back to school. So, I told Angevine, "Angevine, whatever you do, don't let me change classes". So, I take Mrs. Gerstle's(sp) class in typing. So, I'm sittin' in the back and I thought she'd be up front but she was in

the back there with a pencil, "One, two, three, four; one, two, three, four". I run up to the office and said, "I want to get out of that class; she's drivin' me crazy". "No, you know what you told me to do". "Yeah, but I wanta change, I can't stand it". "Nope" So I walked over and bought a Model T Ford over at Grief's; I think I paid \$30. for it. Open end, you know. I used to charge my sister a quarter and give her a ride all the way round. Who was that, Bessie? Bessie. So we run over Ben Shipp's dog--he had a big dog over there and liked to dumped the car over. The dog got up and started runnin' to the house. Bessie said, "Boy, I gave you a lot of quarters". Well I needed gas.

We had a lot of fun in school, though. Oh, yeah. But I don't think, if it wasn't for sports, I don't think I'd a went on. I was one of the dummies; you know, I wasn't no sharp shooter. I was one of those guys that thought I knew more than the teacher. Miss Harmon was strict as all get out. Did you have Wagers(?) too? No, I don't remember her. She was probably after her.

Anyway, my sis and I were in the same English class. The teacher would call on me. She'd call on Beth(?).

They had us in columns of four. The high school was on one side and the grade school was on the other side, I guess. But, anyway, Jimmy was standin' next to me and he was explainin' how to march. So, Jimmy Phillis imitated him; he says, "How do you mean?" He stepped out of line. "Like this?". He come a-runnin' down those stairs and he grabbed Jimmy and threw him up in a tree. He says, "No, like this".

And he and Chick Quella used to wrestle. He and Harry Flint. Harry's the one that knocked him down the flight of stairs.

I'll never forget the time they come up there and picked him up. He sold something out of the school, McCreedy, remember, he sold some kind of a machine. The police came over there and got him the night they were havin' some kind of a - oh, I don't know whether it was a teachers' meeting. But he was a son-of-a-fun. How long was he here? Oh, I don't know, quite a while. Four or five years? Well, let's see, he was there when the new school was there. And he was there in the old school. I think his last year there was '28. Yeah, and then whatchacallhim came - Van Lohen Stennett(?). Then Angevine come. Angevine came there in 1930. Yeah, but he come there first as principal. No, he came as the coach. From Deer Trail. He'd give you a basketball and say, "There's a basket there and a basket there and there's the court". But he was strict. He kept you in line.

Remember when the Fire Department came up and said, "I want six of you guys, or eight". Six - me, you and Joe Boisnick(sp), Alex _____. There was two other guys that were pretty fast. Anyway, they invited us up to run against the Fire Department. "Now, if any of you guys can beat our guys, we'll accept you". Six of us beat their six, every damn one of us. And when we'd run the 100 yard dash, the six of us were that far apart; that's how close we all were. No kiddin'. There was some good runners there.

And then before that, they had Skag Beckett and those guys. They were good too. You know, Louisville had good athletes. And Erie had good ones. Boni LaSalle, I remember one of them. Yeah, he was pretty good in basketball. He was a pretty good athlete. Boni La Salle was a good ball player. He played second base. No, left field; Tony LaSalle played second. There was another - Bert Nehoff.(?) Back when the Post ran the deal. Post Tournament. They played for the Cheyenne Indians. The Cheyenne M and Os? The Greeley M and Os. The last team he had, I played for the Boulder Collegians. We played Boni LaSalle's - that was his last team. All these older guys, you know. Lloyd. They had some good athletes in this surrounding area. We had Elias Smith - remember - used to play out of Greeley - played for Tony LaSalle. He used to play himself until he run into that sand truck and broke his leg.

Was there ever anybody that went to the Minor or Major Leagues from Lafayette?
Tom Sutak went as high as anybody - no, Lenny Metz played for Philadelphia. But he got hit across the forehead by Nesbitt, they tell me over at Louisville; I didn't see the game. He let loose of the bat and hit Lenny across there and dimmed his eyesight; that's why Lenny couldn't make the majors. He was weak on the curve ball and Lenny told me himself that the ball is like that - when it comes up to you, you've got to have good eyesight. Metz was a good shortstop. We had a lot of good ball players, no kiddin'. _____ had a hell of a good arm, I know that.

He scared hell out of a lot of people. I was pitchin' down at the tournament one time. This was the Red Devils? The Red Devils at the tournament, you know, and I threw a wild pitch over Milliken and they had a board where they used to pull back and throw the balls in. That thing got away and split that damn board up. He stepped in the bucket. He said I ruined him. He stepped in the bucket.

This Short is the guy that straightened out everything. He made some progress. He was the instigator of lots of good kids. He made them good kids; let me put it that way. He turned us around.

We had a damn coach there, that Wallace, remember him? He had that stub; he had one arm. Boy, he'd jab you in the ribs with that damn thing. He never had a degree; Kenny _____ got him in, somehow. He was Kent's right hand man. He could golf pretty good, you know, for a one armed guy.

Gettin' back to McCready, this one time, you know when they had the Longmont Fair all the time. The Boulder County Fair. So there was Orville Andrews-- anyway, Jimmy and I and -- we ditched school and we were hitch hikin'. So we around by the _____ Lake, that was the old road, we never had the old Lincoln Highway then. It was the old road, way back there. So we were hitchin' to Erie and we were trying to flag him down, we didn't know who it was and it was McCready. He went right by us. We said, now we're in for it. Go back to school on Monday or whenever it was and nothin' was said. Tuesday, nothin' was said. Boy, we're free; we're home free. He comes down and he gets all three of us and takes us up to that little room you know where his office was. He gets that rubber hose out and he beat hell out of us and we're cryin' and hollerin'. So I don't know whether he felt sorry for us or not but he had some of that old Christmas candy in there, you know those hard chocolates. And he passed them around and boy, we were eatin' them. We deserved it Mac, we deserved it and he'd pass some more. You know we was always pullin' for McCready - every time his wife had a baby, we got a bar of candy. You knew about McCready and that red-headed second grade teacher, didn't you? Yeah, Dirks. He was chasin' her.

Were you in school when Miranda was the teacher? Who's Miranda? Doc Hurt's wife. The two McCaslin sisters were my teachers. Edie was their older sister. Yeah, the one that married Ray Burk. They're both passed away now. No. The hell they ain't. He don't mean Doc Hurt's wife; he means Ray and his wife. Oh, yeah.

Did you fellas ever have anything to do with Bennie Phillips? Yeah, ran against him. Ran against him in the 100 down at Grand Junction, I think it was or Canon City, I forget which. He was a nice kid; he was a good athlete. He was a smooth athlete. Personality was his best. You know that guy that lost his arm in the coal mine, he was supposed to go to the Service the next day - oh what the hell's his name? - Pickett was the motorman and it was a tight fit between the car and the ribs - you know the ribs was like a wall - and he told him to jump and he did and that thing was so damn tight that it pulled his arm off. So they got him over to the hospital and he wants to die; I went to see him several times. He was layin' flat on his chest and lookin' at me and that damn arm was gone. Well, he couldn't even move himself.

He was paralyzed from the waist down on account of a severed spine or what the hell ever. So he wanted to die. The nurses began to like him; he began to get cards. I never seen a guy turn around that quick, enjoying life again. He finally got married. Yeah, one of the nurses. He wanted to go to a game and we had to go up to that press box and it was up a ladder. And Rodrigues and him was the two best buddies, I can tell you. And they packed him up there. And they done that many a time and they'd take him over to Gar's or Johnny's whichever one they wanted to go to and the drinks they give that guy! They thought they was helpin' him. He'd go home drunker than hell. He was with the guys he liked. We used to see him in the Service in San Francisco. Who Bennie? Yeah, he was in the hospital over there. You mean after he got hurt, I thought you meant he made the Service. Oh, no. They used to bring him out on a stretcher to watch the game there. We saw him one time at Kaiser Hospital, the first time he walked. They fitted him up with a telescoping crutch that they fastened on to his shoulder of the arm that was gone and we went there to Kaiser Hospital one time we was out in California and we stopped to see Bennie and they had him out there and this was the first time he'd tried to walk and he'd move that crutch and then he'd swing his body and the sweat just poured off him. He was in between two rails and it took him about 30 minutes to go ten feet, something like that but he walked. He had a lot of guts.

Another pitcher you oughta remember was a fast ball - Mike Dotson. What was the kid's name? Andy uh - remember his sister, Helen, she was a good lookin' woman. He come from back in Chicago. And he stopped at Elmo Lewis' just after I moved out to Lafayette and wanted to know if I was around and I guess Elmo couldn't think of me and he left a note, so I never heard from him. Mike Dotson used to get us out there and it would be night and he'd hit us these fly balls and I thought he was gonna be a good ball player when he left. We were just little punk kids runnin' those fly balls. He lived next to Sam Lukart(?) up there on Geneseo. Yeah, I believe so. Then he lived right next to Webbs. He had two brothers. Eugene, the guy that used to have the paper route? Yeah, they lived in the corner house. Do you remember where the Methodist Church used to be Sleppy(?) lived? Oh yeah. We used to take a shortcut up there.

I was going to tell you about Van Sykes' Garage. In the sixth grade and we got through practicin' and they had a carnival up there so I stopped at Van Sykes' Garage and I left my shoes, tennis shoes, there. I come back to get 'em after I'd been up there a while and, my god, they were full of that oil, you know that draining oil and I said, "Who in the hell done that?" I almost cried; they were brand new shoes; you know it's hard to get shoes. They told me it was Rock Crewson(?). I'd seen him there so I get that damn rag full of oil and I go up to him - he was with his girl - and I wind up and I threw that son-of-a-buckin' rag and it splattered all over him; it hit him on the shirt and hit his girl and he started after me and it seemed like - uh - you've seen in the movies and they show people runnin' how - it just

looked like they'd open up for me - through the crowd. Finally, they caught him robbin' Kemps that time, remember and they sent him to the pen.

Well, what I'm going to tell you about him - see in them days, when you wanted any extra-curricular activities, sports and stuff - you had to raise your own money. So at the school there, what we done, we got a deal where students would go around and get magazine subscriptions. Well, that bird was supposed to be the manager of it. He run off with all the money. Boy, we had quite a scandal at the school over that. We had an awful time gettin' that straightened out. He was a good lookin' guy, too. Oh yeah. His brother was up here from Missouri - Roscoe. I remember the old man, he had a ---.

Edna Schofield still lives here and her sister, Nellie, lives out in Oregon. Nellie was really good lookin' and thin. What was the one - Felice. That's the one Spike - all of our candy, a piece, you know. And I just found out from Rock they never even slept together. I knew that. I didn't know Spike was ever married. Yeah, he married. Nellie's the one that lives out there. She still alive, Nellie? Yeah, out in Oregon. Nellie graduated in '27; she was in the same class as my wife, Leona. After she left here, she married and she's out in Oregon on the coast there someplace. Close to where Bob Johnson's Marie lives. Marie Johnson, Bob's oldest girl, lives out in Newport, Oregon and, well, Nellie lives down the coast.

Your brother, Harry, is he still married to the Graham girl? Oh, yeah, they had their 60th wedding anniversary just before you had yours. They live out on the coast in Aberdeen, that's right close to the ocean. That's straight west a hundred and some miles from Seattle.

What was the name of Ruth Mathias' brother? Bert Varner. He went to the pen for rape. He raped that - . This happened a long time ago. What was her name? Heiser. Is that the one that married Ding Biella(?). Yeah, and then married - went with - the undertaker. Henning. She was a beautiful girl. Her dad was the blacksmith at the Standard Mine.

How times have changed. Did you come in after Heatherington? Yeah, Harry Grief was after Heatherington. Then Roy Grief - then I worked for Roy for five years. But you had it last? Yeah, I had it last. I was there until they closed it up. Was Tex dead before that? Oh, no, no, he didn't die until the middle '60s. He was a nice guy. Did he go down and sell cars in Broomfield with a - ? He was dead before that. I remember now. They left here to go to Broomfield in the late '60s. That little white car of my wife's - we bought it up here - and that was '65 so it must have been about three years later. See, I went down - I was selling cars for Grief up here - and I went to Broomfield and sold cars down there for about six months. They went to Broomfield towards the end of '68 or '69. I didn't like it down there so that's when I quit. They were there for several years after I quit selling. I came out to Lafayette in '70 or '69 and they still had the garage up here.

I bought my car off them in '67 = off of you or Tex. It had to be Emmett, it had to be Tex, yeah. I know the white one I got up here of Leona's was '65.

Did any of you ever work together? No. Yes, beets. Yeah, sugar beets, oh man, nine years I put in them. With Johnny James. Workin' them beets, what about that old Beranek? You know what, I went down there and eat a few times. One of the best meals I ever had in my life - for 17 kids and mother and father and you know they'd invite me and they'd make a place for you and I'd eat. You talk about food, boy. And they stuck together. We were real young up there. Jack Beranek and I and Monk used to go down and steal the old man's wine.

Where did they live here in town? You know where Waneka's new - where they moved that house, right across the street. No. First, they lived next to - up there, their house burned down - Dow was livin' there. What is it Cleveland? Dow was livin' on Cleveland Street? Yeah, and next door was Debronic(?) on the corner - their house burned down. And then they moved down there across the railroad. That was way back. And they had 17 children? One of those children - she had when she was out in the beet field. Josephine was eight on each side of her. Yeah, she was in my room. She was in the middle in other words. A nice lookin' girl. She was here a while back. Her son married one of Shiney's girls. How many of them are still around? Oh, there's a hell of a lot of them. Well, Butch died. Fred died first, I think. And Freddie Marino's mother died. And Bush. And Edith. Oh, out of the 17 of them, there must be 10 of them living here. One is married to Bill Schoser. One is married to Guerrieri down here. That's a Beranek. That's LeRoy's dad, Frank. One's married to Biella in Louisville. Where they lived down there was the old Bernek place. Well, it must have burned down twice, then. I can remember when I was runnin' around with Beranek that's where they lived. They lived up here first. The house burned down and remember the guy that lived across the street from them? Their uncle - what the hell was his name - Carl Beranek. Pat Beranek was the one with the 17; the other one lived across the street. And they had Edith Beranek there. She's still alive; I seen her in church and she's got her daughter in Broomfield. She married the guy from Superior that had all those sheep down there. That's the one I'm trying to think of. Pankoski. That's the one. He bought all that property. Edith Pankoski. Yeah, but that's the other Beranek - that ain't the main one. The other brother was Wencil? Yeah, Wencil(sp).

Side 2

Let's talk a little bit about the depression here in Lafayette. I tell you that's the first time I ever worked on WPA and it was one of the hardest jobs I ever had. This guy we used to call the Green Hornet - what the hell was his name? Do you remember him? He was a mechanic with old man Brown. George Folmer(?). He was our boss. We worked with the water system up there. What was Fred Stubbs' kid's name? Glen? Herb. Herb Stubbs. He was a rotten banana, but we made it miserable for him too. He was the time keeper. He comes around, you know and boy, we'd know when he was comin'. We're hidin' in the weeds all the time because the guy's pushin' us too hard. He was gettin' \$15. a week. Well, the foreman used to get a dollar a day, or I mean a dollar an hour and the workers, 50¢. That Bart that was a good cement man and a good carpenter. Is he the one that built the swimming pool? No, remember, he used to work up at the garage there for a while, across the street for Loren and them. He had the filling station; he was in charge of it. Little heavy-set guy, Bart. He had to be workin' for Mac then. Yeah. I can't think of his last name. He was a good all around man; he was a cement man and he was a good carpenter.

I'll tell you one on that depression and the WPA and stuff like that. Floyd Brown was a good - .He went with Pat(?)Rogers, you know, Floyd Brown and Ernie James and Bill Nace and all those guys worked over there. That wasn't during the depression though when they worked for Pat(?) Rogers and Ernie was the big shot there. But before that, he had the crews out there workin' on the - . How old was Floyd? Well he's about the same age as Ernie James. He was a little younger than me. Ernie James - he's 74 or 75. He's more than 74; he's was about two or three years older than I was. Well, that's what he says he is, anyhow. Well Floyd's a little older than me and I'm 74. So, Ernie James must be around there; that's what he says. Well, he's gotta be older than me because that ball team that we had, he wasn't eligible to play with the Red Devils - Ernie. And Benton wasn't eligible. There was three guys that couldn't make it. Neither was Metz. They all were tryin' out. They were too old.

Ponzo Mastriano, Greekie Lewis, Boots Noble

Well, on the WPA, what all did they do here in town? They cleaned streets. They put in sidewalks. And another thing they done here, remember, I remember next door to me, in old John Mangus' place - they built that concrete cistern for outside toilets then. They done a lot, boy. That's what they should have now. Get a lot of these people on welfare that don't belong there. They done a lot of good jobs then. I remember them outside toilets they had then. That's the sanitized type they had then and they cemented them all in because they put one of them right next door to us.

What was that damn law they had here that cost you two bucks? Poll tax. Every year. Boy, you had to go and chop weeds in order to pay that damn two bucks. How long did you have to work to pay that? Just a day. Two dollars for a day's work. You give them a good days work, they'd lay down enough weeds to last you a hell of a long time. It depended on who the boss was. But they don't have that now do they? I never heard of it no more. But that was just to clean up the town? Yes. The poll tax was about the voting. Yeah, you couldn't vote if you didn't pay poll tax. That's why everybody paid it. Well, hell, everybody didn't vote so I don't know how you got your money. Well, did anybody ever pay the \$2.00 or did they work it off? They worked it off. A lot of them worked it off. We didn't have no money then. In them days, money was hard to come by.

In those days, one guy ran the whole damn town. The waterworks, the grading, the cop, he was everything. Red Gallagher wouldn't tell you where all the turnoffs were. They had one guy on the streets; one would be the clerk and the marshal both. Autrey was clerk for a hell of a long time. Fred Autrey. Welshy was clerk for a long time. And Welshy, the way they had the setup on the cemetery, I think he's the only one that knew where the hell everything was. When you went to get a plot, you had to get Welshy. This was after he got out of there; up until he died. Welshy took care of the cemetery. You damn right he did. You know he was a sharp son-of-a-buck. He never had no high school education as far as I know. He drew a plot of that cemetery on an old window shade that would raise up and down, you know, a blind and he platted them all. And they've still got that down at the City Hall. They're doing different with it now; they're computing it. When are they gonna come down here and get that - . I don't know. Get what? He's got a map with all the coal mines in this area. A map with all the coal mines. They've got it up there too. No, they don't have one like this. I talked to them about it. Louisville wants it and I want Lafayette to come get a reprint before they do. George Waneka gave it to me when he passed away, he left it. He's got a map in here with every mine that was ever drilled in this area. I'll tell you where George probably got it from too - from Jack - remember old Jack Muirs(?)? Yeah. That's George's uncle. It is? He lives out on the hill there. That was George's uncle? Wasn't there another one here in town? Waneka? Nace was their name. The lady was a Waneka; George's sister, I think. Bill Nace worked on the section; he's the best guy I ever seen, with a McDaniels, to hit those spikes. His kid is a roofer. That's right. He's a nice lookin' kid, too.

And then this fella was right next door to Rogles(?) - remember where Rogles used to live? Just south of town there. Yeah, he and the old man used to walk down together a lot of times and they were cousins to Bill Nace. Both of them were named Bill Nace.

Talkin' about that map - at one time there was nothin' but a bunch of pinhole places all over this area. Must have been a good area because there was a lot of damn coal mines here. I can remember the biggest part of 'em. I can remember we was lookin' at this map and I found one over by Marshall called the "Never Sweat". I had never heard of the Never Sweat Mine, but we found it; it was there, the Never Sweat Mine. That was not too far from the Gorem Mine. I don't remember Gorem. I remember Gorem. Monk used to live there one time. And that Dave Allen(?) that used to be at the Simpson, he run the Crown there for a while.

What was the name of the mine that Allen and this guy that lived across the street from the James', how did they gyp Public Service out of so much money? Oh, the truck driver would take the slip in and have the clerk sign his name and Allen was one of them. This Allen over here, he was Tom Allen's brother. Right. The mine over there at Superior, that was Bushof(?). Well, that was one of the guys that got caught. What were they doin'? Well they were paddin' the weight slips on the coal delivered to Public Service. A lot of them didn't even deliver coal. And you know when you sign a slip that you delivered it, your hands are dirty and that's how they caught them. They had a big deal over that. That guy got 15 years, that Bushof across the street from James'. Now when did that happen? Oh, that was 25-30 years ago. Longer than that. I'd say somewhere around mid 30's. They did that up till about the time of World War II. Right around there. They made it pretty good, they were gettin' by for years. You can see why they were buyin' rings and big cars and buyin' property.

The thing that bothers me the most is Davis up there. The clan that came from Missouri? Yeah. They went bankrupt, didn't they? They come back here and they bought the whole town, what the hell was ever loose, they bought for back taxes. That was during the time a dollar was hard to come by. So what he'd do is come and give you a big sales pitch how they'd take care of you on anything, just charge anything and we'll settle up later on. Well when that time comes for a lot of people in town, they got a pretty good size bill into him, people charged and everything, he'd say, "I can't carry you any longer; it's time to settle up". "If you haven't got anything here, you'll have to sign your property over to me". That's how he done it. He came with the same pitch to me. I told him, "Don't bother with me; there's other people that needs worse than I do, go talk to them." He bought a lot of homes on back taxes. He bought that whole behind Rodnick's store - they had all those little --. They bought everything up. In those days, I thought you didn't have any more money when you went bankrupt. Nowadays, you can have your home, I guess and everything; they can't take that away from you. In them days, they didn't have the Chapter 11; they've got it nowadays. What happened to all

those properties that they bought up? They sold it all. Well, they owned that where the Senior Center is; I don't know what the deal was on it. They sold that. The only house I know that they've still got is the one next to me. Well, George has that. Well, the old man died. McManus, what was that Greek's name? Oh, he died, he got run over - he got killed on Colorado Boulevard. Well, he owned Wes's house. He owned a lot of houses. Who? Nellie, Nellie Davis, his wife - they owned that store in Erie. I wouldn't work for that outfit; they were on you, boy, day and night. Was her name Nellie? No, not Nellie - Bertha. Nellie was the Davis up here's wife. Claude Davis' wife. That was Horace's younger brother - Claude Davis. Him and Slaughter used to run around together and my brother started butchering for Claude - that's where he learned to butcher. That's how he got the name "Slaughterhouse". Was Slaughter's wife out to the doings? No, she's not here no more; she's in Phoenix or somewhere. She left here about four years ago. Well, Claude was always out to make a fast buck. He drank a lot too. He came down to the bulk plant one day and offered me a dollar a stamp. You could get, what, four gallons of gas for one stamp - and he offered me a dollar a stamp. Of course, I had a lot of stamps there, you know, being in that business. I told him, "No, I wasn't interested in selling". He said, "You're crazy". I said, "Well, I might be crazy, but by golly, I wanta sleep when I go to bed and night". You'd be just the one that would be in jail. Yeah, they'd have caught me. He said, "I can take 20,000 stamps right now. I said, "You can't take them from me". This was the kind of a guy that he was. I'll bet he got a lot of them. I bet he did.

And now, the poor people are gettin' the stamps and some of them are cashing them in - say they've got \$50. worth of stamps - they'll take \$30. bucks cash so they can go down to the dog track or wherever the hell they want to go. And how many's counterfeit? That's your evils.

Even at the coal mines - the Rocky Mountain Fuel when they had coupon books - the guys would get hard up for cash and they'd come around to you and offer you a \$10. book for \$8. cash. Well, my dad, when he ran the Leyden boarding house, he ran the boarding house, he ran the pool hall and worked in the mine - on Wednesdays, he'd go in Denver and buy the meat for the boarding house. And when he was runnin' the pool hall, those guys would come up there and they'd give him, just like you say, they'd give him a coupon book for \$10. and they'd take eight for it. See, you signed a slip for that coupon book for your current paycheck. But, I mean that was a cinch - your money came out of their purse. My father-in-law had the boardin' house over at the State Mine and they'd get the money, all they wanted. When the day come, that was a cinch; it was right there for them. In other words, the coupons came out before anything else. They used to call it script. What was the name of that song? "Sixteen Ton and the Company Store". Oh man, that was a racket, that's all there is to it. I remember when Maude Schofield used to work for my dad - she brought it up - I forgot about it - when they had the candy store. Remember when my dad had it with Purdy(?) the Greek? Well that was right on the corner where the bank used to be. Yeah, right this side of where Maupins' old furniture store used to be. I didn't know

your dad had a store. Oh, yeah, they had the pool hall and they had the candy store. There was a pool hall below the bank; is that the one? It must have been; I just remember they made Purdy, the Greek - they put him in the candy store because he attracted all of these school teachers - he was a good lookin' guy, you know. Johnny James and those guys run him off the road up there at Eldorado Springs and killed him.

They had a confectionary, ice cream stand and one thing under the bank; you had to go down and you went around underneath and there was a couple of bowling lanes under the old Company Store down there. It seems to me the candy store was where Paletes (sp) was. No, Paletes was where the wash-a-mat is now - just the other side of it. Well, I know that's where I got a lot of gold pieces from - you know - they'd have them on the punch boards and when the boards would get down to something, they'd punch them out, see.

Did I tell you about Jimmy? During the depression, this slicker, you know, he was down there at Canon City when they were havin' a dice game. Well, anyway, he and Jimmy Phillis were partners. So they bought a bunch of punch boards and they had the key on them - you know they knew where the winners were. They went through Kansas and Eastern Colorado. They went through there and this guy would sell them punch boards and Jimmy would be a day behind. And he'd call Jimmy that night and tell him where he'd put it or they'd hang a rag out and Jimmy'd stop in there and he'd get in there and get a cup of coffee and say, "Oh, I see you've got a punch board, does it pay cash?" Yeah. So, he'd punch maybe \$2.00 worth and finally he'd hit a \$20. one. He knew where all the winners were. And he used to buy clothes and the Cruise (sp) turned him in. He used to come out here and bring clothes that was hot and he'd try to sell them and Cruise turned him in. I was trying to think - Thurman was his name - and he could take a pair of dice and he took Johnny James and I up in the room. Jimmy told us not to get in the game, see. So he took us up in the room. So he took this guy up there and he'd roll the dice and they'd be green; he'd pick 'em up and red ones would come out. So there was Henry George and Phillip and they were real young and they were laying on the floor and this guy got worried. So he says, he took Jimmy off somewhere and Jimmy says, "Put 'em in your hat". So there was no danger there. So we watched and most of our guys didn't play. They were in that motel, the Grande. Where was this Grand Junction? Yeah. He rolled these dice. And he developed a muscle in there where he could hold a pair of dice and he'd come in and watch and see what color dice they were using and go back in the toilet and get a whole bunch. So Jimmy was telling me he was shootin' dice on the waterfront in San Francisco and one of those dice dropped back and they just cut him up and put him out of commission - they killed him. Didn't they run Chipmunk out of Leadville? He claims they didn't, but they did. Yeah, I think he had this Thurman with him. He was chasin' him and he run down to the railroad track and says, "I gotta get out of here". You know, Monk is lucky he's alive, honest to God, that somebody didn't shoot him. Every time he got in a fight, Greek would have to take care of him. He had a way about him; that's how he got into that Press Club down in Denver, contactin' all them guys. He had this guy. Starr Yelland? No,

no, it wasn't Starr. He'd hang around his brother-in-law's place, that Helen was married to. He was a brilliant writer; he wrote a lot about Greece. You know, Ancient Greece. He and Jimmy got to be pretty good buddies so Jimmy went to work there. They gave him the keys to the slot machines. And, they knew, Chet Nelson and everybody knew. He says, "What the hell; we were goin' broke before - this guy's at least makin' us money and buildin' the place.

You know, during the Red Devils, we had some money left, me and Greekie and Andy Roebuck and Monk were the committee. We had about eighteen bucks in there and anyhow it turned out that we got four bucks a piece and there was two dollars left. What the hell do we do but write a check and send it to this Short for runnin' the team all summer. And Welshy come and got all of us. So we go up to City Hall and Monk's wavin' his check, well the judge says, was it McKeon? Yeah, Judge McKeon. Okay, he says, "Okay, it looks like you're the only one that's got any money - let's have a check for \$16. He got that check too - the only one that had any money. So, we sent the two dollars to the guy for runnin' the ball team - if we'd used the money any other way, they'd have never found out about it. I don't even remember the episode. Andy with you guys come down to my house, the last guy. He says, "I'm leavin' town". Who said that? Andy. You were livin' down on Public Road? Yeah. Andy was big, you know. And then during the Red Devils there was a guy that was six-one or two, And John Benten(?) was the catcher; Andy was the pitcher. Left handed catcher. Andy was a big bruiser up there with that little buy cathin' - looked like Mutt and Jeff. Boy, that Milliken got big, didn't he - Fred Milliken? Yeah. But, Fred, I don't see him hardly at all. He's up by where I am. He goes up in the mountains to his cabin - on the St. Vrain. He bought a new truck or somethin'. Fred's kinda quiet, you know, he don't bother nobody. He was a good kid. Good catcher. Yeah, I see him up there, we talk.

Do you know his brother, Francis? He just died a while back. We used to call him Frenchie. And he had a brother, Jimmy. James? Yeah. They lived down there where Bobey(?) lives now. There's a guy that's really been married a long time. Who? Fred. Well, he's not been married as long as my wife and I. He was married in '30 and my wife and I was married in '29. You've got a year on him, then. I think Fred quit school because Jimmy and I were stayin' with him. Do you remember when they came to town; he was the janitor of the school and they stayed in the school. Their home was down in the basement. And every one of them helped clean. Do you know what their name was? Milliken. No, before Milliken, that guy that cleaned - way back. Shinishaw(?). Then the Millikens. Then this other guy took over. Schroder(sp) used to be there. George Schroder was ahead of the Millikens.

Ernest, Ernest and - whatchacallit that used to live across the street - them brothers - Tavales(sp) - right across the street was the lumber yard, right? I remember the depot over here. This depot across the street from you? Yeah. And where was the pickle factory down there? Down in back of where your tanks were, down in there. They even had an elevator in there from one floor to the other. Remember me tellin' you that a lot of people didn't believe they had a pickle factory in this town? Right there it was.

Another thing they don't believe - they used to have an asbestos factory over here but it burned down. Where was that? Do you remember where it was? Not me, I don't. It was up by the highway there - right where the tracks used to run. Yeah, in them early years there, they were gonna start a roofing company down there. Do you know where off the highway down there where there used to be a rifle shed or - you know, down there by George Waneka's - you know right down there next to the creek, that building down in there - well right east of there is where that old roofing company was - cause they sold stock in it and my dad got taken for about a thousand dollars.

How come they made Wanekas move everything out of there? What Waneka are you talking about? Don. Down in there from his place was a shed, I don't know what the hell it was doin' in there. There was somethin' with the town. Well, the town don't go that far down. That's the county. Well, there's something - they made - - . I think I know what you're talkin' about - they made him do that on account they wanted an easement for something. That's a greenbelt goes through there. Did you see how much land they gave up there by the - state couldn't handle it and the city didn't want it so they gave it - you know where Pete Vickles is - across the street - there's a big tall fence in there they're movin' out.

Now, you know where that new school building down there - now there trying to make the school district pay for them improvements around there. I think they're gonna have a rough time makin' them do that.

You know we had a fiftieth Saturday and the three guys I missed the most was - Satak was one, Everett was, my son and maybe Jim Bove. But those guys - they reminded me of so darn much stuff. How many people were down there? I don't know; I was happy, anyhow. There was quite a few. I'd estimate 150.

You know, three brothers were married in '36. Tony, his is in October. Lefty, Joe, is August 15th. Now that's something wonderful. Did you all have your things together? No. I was married June 26, of '36. Then Lefty and then Tony, the oldest one. We were planning on having it all together and then, hell, you'd have to have a hell of a big hall. So I didn't want one big one. I'll tell you the truth, if it wasn't for the kids, I'd never have had this thing. The grandkids put it over. I'm glad now but I wasn't at the time. The simple reason, you know, they've bought new houses

and they've got cars and furniture and it's gonna be hard on them. A lot of them want to go travel, you know, vacation. I said, "How in the hell can you kids?" "Don't worry about it; we'll take care of it". "You was good to us and we already got the hall". I didn't mind havin' a little one. Somebody even put it on radio. Yeah, I heard it on the radio. I don't know who the hell done that. I didn't wanta make a big thing outa this thing. It was nice.

How long have you been married? Since 1942. That'd be 44 years. You got six to go, you'd better hold on. Trying to. You will; you'll make it. You run every day and you keep in damn good shape.

Just like they say, you've got to manage money. You gotta know how to manage your money. You get away and before you know it - just like Wes - I stayed away from the dogs for 20 years - it started in '48 in Denver, they tell me and in '68, he kept tellin' me all the time, let's go to the dogs. "Naw, hell with the dogs". Well, I didn't have no money anyhow. So one night, I got payday and he said, "Come on, let's go to the dogs". Okay. Helen says, "Get outa here for a while". Okay. So she gave me \$50. and I went with Wes and at the fifth race, I was \$500. ahead and I said, "Boy, what I've been missin' all these years". The eleventh race, we were \$25. a piece in the hole. So that's what I mean. But later, Wes got to be smart with the dogs. If he'd get two - three hundred ahead, he'd slack off from the ninth on up because these are your toughest race. He said any damn dog in that race can win it. But in your days, when you guys were goin', the dogs you had could win. You know, now you can't pick a winner, a cinch dog. I don't know what in the hell is wrong. They're runnin' just dogs but they're screwin' up the track. Are they? Diggin' it deep. And finishers win. And Mile High is supposed to be early speed. He's goin' to Vegas, you know. I think he's gonna leave Saturday. Well, he's a good player; he's a sharp player. Wes was a good one; knew who had money and who didn't have money. That's what I call a good gambler, you know. When they count the tens; you know if you need a ten for a straight and three of them gone and you're tryin' to catch the other one. I'm one of those guys that stays and I think I'm gonna get it. Yeah, right in the fanny. That's right. That's gambling. You gotta count those. Those guys that play black jack - they count all the cards, and I don't. I went there one time and I was \$900. in the hole. That damn Vegas. They took me on a trip - the bowling alley, you know - 21 of us went down. Anyhow, \$900. in the hole; I said, no more Vegas for me. I never liked it in the first place. The first time I went through there, I had three dollars. A guy was puttin' dollars in the slot machine, you know. It was like it was pullin' my heart out to see a buck go in there. Anyhow, Tony's losin', I'm losin', the other guys are losin'. Johnny says, "Give me \$200. we'll go together, I know this game". 15 minutes, he's busted. So I'm down another \$200. Oh boy, somebody, "Come over to blackjack, I'll show you how to win". I'm \$300. more down. Gee, I'm \$900. in the hole. So, I told Tony, "How do I get to go home?" We had a five day deal, you know, to stay there. He says, "We can go home any time". I says, "Do you wanta go home?" He says, "Yeah, let's go". So the next morning, he says, "Let's go over to this table". Tony's a hard loser. I don't know how many passes he took. I shot 7-11 in somebody's house or the yard or somewhere, you know,

but not on a table like that. They have these lines over here and the lines over there. I'm \$1600. I got. He lost the dice - I quit. So the next morning, I said, "We're still goin' home; I'm gettin' the hell out of here, I'm way ahead now". So, he said, "Let's go over here - 15 minutes, I lose \$300. so I came home with about \$400. winnings. I ain't been back since. You gotta know how to gamble over there, boy. You've got to know who's on blackjack. If there's a phony over there -- . He can ruin a hand. He can ruin the whole works. You know darn well that Las Vegas is not there for you to make money. It's there for them to make money. Johnny droppped \$6,000. Charlie, my brother-in-law - I think he's \$18,000 ahead. I don't know the real sum, but it's way up there. So he walks up and down the street, takin' in shows - he don't send no money home - he lost the whole goddam thing plus what he went with.

Shut that thing off as far as I'm concerned.