

Tape 1019

Interview with Maude Schofield by Judi Reich, February 24, 1975:

Judi: Mrs. Schofield, were you born in Lafayette? M.S.: No, I was born in England. My parents came here when I was 9 years old. Judi: They came right to Lafayette? M.S.: Yes, directly to Lafayette. Judi: Oh, wow. Did you have any brothers or sisters who came, too? M.S.: I had two sisters and a brother. One sister has passed away. My other sister and brother live in Denver. Judi: What did your father do when you came here to Lafayette? M.S.: Well, mostly he mined, but he had interests in band and other musical things. After he left here he was associated with music entirely in Denver. Judi: Oh, what instrument did he play? M.S.: He played the cornet and led the band. He had the Denver & Rio Grande band in Denver for a good many years and they were awarded many awards. Judi: Were you a very musical family? M.S.: Yes, we had our own little orchestra. Judi: What did you play? M.S.: I played the violin, my sister the piano, and my dad the cornet--just the three of us. Judi: Did you spend a lot of time together playing? M.S.: Just family-wise.

Judi: What made them decide to come right to Lafayette from England? M.S.: Well, my grandfather was here, my mother's father, and they communicated and so my father and mother thought they would like to come here so they came here directly to my grandfather. Judi: Was your mother born in America? M.S.: No, she was born in England. Judi: Did your father know about coal mining or did he have to learn that once he came here? M.S.: No, he knew coal mining in England.

Judi: Did you live right here in the city or in this home? M.S.: I married George Schofield and we lived out on the ranch north of town for about 47 years. Then he passed away and I came to town. Judi: What sort of things did you do on the ranch? M.S.: Oh, mostly homemaking. And then I had my clubs and church. Judi: Were those really important, then? M.S.: Yes.

Judi: What clubs were they? M.S.: Well, Study Group, bridge club, and church associations. Judi: Did many people belong to those clubs? M.S.: I have belonged to two of these clubs, I don't know exactly how long, but for a good many years. Judi: Was the church a big influence in Lafayette then, too? M.S.: Well, for certain people, yes. Judi: What sort of things did you do in the church? M.S.: Well, not too much socially. There was the choir practices, the prayer meetings sometimes, and the services on Sunday, the Ladies' Aid always. Other than that I didn't have much time.

Judi: I'm interested in the every day type things you did that may seem unimportant to you but are really interesting to some one else. Like when you first came when you were 9 years old---what was an average day like? What types of things did you do as a family? M.S.: Well, my husband always milked a herd of cows and they shipped the milk some of the time and some of the time we separated it and fed the skim milk to the animals and I made butter from the cream. Judi: How did you do that? M.S.: I churned it. Judi: How often? M.S.: Twice every week. Then, of course, we had our chickens and we had the eggs. We furnished the stores with butter and eggs. Judi: How much did butter cost then? or a dozen eggs? M.S.: Oh, about 30¢ a pound for butter and were around 25¢ a dozen. I think at one time we got 50¢ for eggs, but that was really something. Judi: Did you make other things? Did you bake bread? M.S.: Oh, yes, I always baked bread and washed the hard way.

Judi: Did you live near to many other people so that you could get together? M.S.: Well, when we got together it was mostly with town people. We had friends who lived in town and we'd get together and play cards Saturday night and have a covered dish supper or something like that. Judi: What is a covered dish supper? M.S.: Well, each one would take something.

Judi: What about before you were married when you lived in town. What sort of things would you do with your family? M.S.: Well, mostly like children do nowadays. Just....you know.....maybe they'd have a picture show in the afternoon, we'd go to the picture show sometimes. We had get-togethers, school dances sometimes. Judi: How big were the schools then? M.S.: Well, I can't tell you exactly, but I think around 30 or 40 were in the high school. Of course, I went to school here from the 3rd grade. Judi: How many people do you think were here in Lafayette then compared to now, about 6,000 people? M.S.: Population, you mean? Judi: Right. M.S.: Oh, I don't know. The population wasn't very high then.....I'm afraid to say.

Judi: I guess you've seen a lot of changes, too. Can you think of any specific things that have really changed? M.S.: Well, the building of homes. There've been so many building new homes out here on the west side. Judi: What was this before? M.S.: Just grass. Judi: How about the paving of the streets? M.S.: No, there was no paving at that time. Not very many homes had bathrooms---just outside plumbing. It has grown just like all little towns have. Judi: How about the types of businesses here...have they changed a lot? M.S.: Well, yes, I know we have some pretty good sized businesses now down south. I don't know much about them, I don't keep up on that.

Judi: I think I'm most interested in your life---like your childhood and your adolescence.....Well, I understand the Ku Klux Klan were prevalent here. Were you exposed to that at all? M.S.: Well, we knew of it. But, of course, you know that I was a foreigner (I was considered as such) and not eligible to participateso what I know was hear-say. Judi: Did you ever see any of the terrorism or anything? M.S.: Yes, they did their good deeds--- they came to our Methodist Church and gave the church quite a donation. They were all robed. Judi: Is that the only time you saw them? M.S.: No, I have seen them when they made a demonstration out in the open, you know. Judi: ^{What} When-

was that like? M.S.: Oh, I don't know, they tried to put something, you know bring it before the people, and they had a demonstration. Judi: Did they burn things? M.S.: Yes, they burned things. Judi: Were they pretty well received here? Were there a lot of people involved? M.S.: Well, I think just as now, some are for them and the things that they stand for and some are not. Just like any issue, you know.

Judi: How about some of the other things that you remember from your childhood? Do you remember any of your Christmases together and the sort of things you did then? Did your families get together? M.S.: Yes, we always had family gatherings at Christmas until there were, oh, 25 or 30 every Christmas. It got to be quite an ordeal for the hostess, especially. Of course, all the others would help and it was a big time, especially for the children. It was a wonderful time for them. Judi: Did you have any children that are still here? M.S.: I have one daughter here in Lafayette. Judi: Is she married? M.S.: She is married to Joe Distal and they live up here in a nice house. I have one granddaughter, Patricia Jones, and one great-grandson. My husband's sister lives in Lafayette. We sort of watch out for her. She is in California at the present time.

Judi: Having children and grandchildren, when they went to school and their schooling did they learn differently than you did? I mean, you said there was maybe 30 or 40 in your high school, were you divided into grades? M.S.: Oh, yes.. When I was at home my folks lived south of town in a farm home although my father was a miner and we went to the little school south of town and all the grades were in one building at that time. That was schooling as we had it then. Judi: How many teachers were there? M.S.: One. One teacher took all the grades. Sometimes there were grades skipped where there were no children for that particular grade. Judi: Did you go to school all

day? M.S.: Yes, we'd walk over in the morning and stay until 3:30 or 4:00 and then walk home. Judi: And then did you have chores to do at home? M.S.: While I was at home there were no particular chores. However, my mother was an invalid for quite a number of years before she passed away and we had the home work that we all helped with.

Judi: How about your life on the ranch, once again? Do you remember any certain things you used to do there? M.S.: Nothing special. I remember we had one snow that snowed so hard that it snowed the fences over and some of the men got the horses out and just sort of half-way guided them and let them open up the way. That was really something to remember.

Judi: How about going into town. Was Boulder the closest town if you wanted to do shopping or anything? M.S.: Well, it was. Of course, in my life there has always been a Lafayette and we could come to town and go to Boulder because my husband had a car when we married. So it wasn't like real old-timers, you know. Judi: How long would it take to get to Boulder with the roads not as they are now? M.S.: Well, I think you'd have to plan on a hour to go over, you know, change of roads and no paving.

Judi: Did you ever hike up into the mountains? M.S.: Yes, young people would get together and hike up into the mountains. The Royal Arch up there, we used to go to it, up above Boulder, and have young people's retreats.

Judi: The organizations that you are active in, outside of your home life, you're mainly active in like the church and your two groups? M.S.: Yes, I still belong to the study group and, in fact, I was getting my paper ready for Wednesday. Judi: What types of things did you study then and now? M.S.: Well, it's been about, you know, interesting places, interesting things of current events, or if you make a trip.....I've had many trips with a friend of mine. We've been clear up into Alaska up to Kotseru (only spelled like it sounds. CB). It is just about 35 miles from Point Barrow and then we've been down to Key West, Florida. And really just all over the United States. I've taken many trips

with her. However, she's.....she didn't know me Christmas.

Judi: Have you kept a lot of friends from growing up around Lafayette. Have a lot of them remained here? M.S.: Yes, I have quite a few friends that we had, there were six couples of us that used to get together quite often and of those six couples I think there is only one remaining couple as a couple. Other husbands or wives have passed away. Judi: Do you still get together? M.S.: Yes, we still get together once in a while.

Judi: With Lafayette growing so much does it seem like Lafayette is still made up of the same families? M.S.: Well, I noticed in church yesterday there are so many people I don't know. I don't know whether it's because I'm getting old and don't get around as much as if there are more people. Judi: That must be a strange feeling after knowing everyone in the town. M.S.: Yes, it is. Judi: Did everyone know what everyone else was doing? M.S.: Oh, yes. Just like one big family. But there are more people now and more going on. I can't keep up with it any more.

Judi: How many churches were there in Lafayette when you were growing up? Were there very many? M.S.: Well, there was always the Methodist, the Baptist, and the Catholic. Outside of that, once in a while there'd be a little bunch spring up here, but outside of that.....oh, there are the Nazarenes. They've been here pretty much all along. But now I think there are several others.

Judi: What was it like being the wife of a coalminer? M.S.: Well, my father was a coalminer, but my husband was a farmer. Judi: What was it like being the daughter of a coalminer? M.S.: Well, it seemed like that was the biggest industry at that time. There were mines all over the place and now there isn't one mine in Boulder County. Judi: Did he have to spend a lot of time away from home? M.S.: No, just his regular hours ; however, they didn't think anything

of walking a considerable distance to their work and from their work. Judi: How far would that be, maybe? M.S.: Maybe 4 or 5 miles early in the morning and again in the evening. Judi: Did he ever tell you stories about his coal mining? M.S.: Oh, sometimes. Judi: Do you remember any of those? M.S.: Not something special, no. It always seemed scary, you know, with just a little lamp on your head. We visited one mine. Judi: Oh, what was that like? M.S.: It was kind of scary and dark. We were on a little car, a little flat car. They took us all over and showed us the way the coal came out, you know, the cutting machines, and all. It was interesting at the time but I've forgotten so much... Judi: You just remember that it was scary. Right.

Can you think of any thing else that would be of interest of someone who is interested in the history of Lafayette? M.S.: No, I just didn't have time to think hardly since Effie asked me. Judi: Oh, you're doing great. Then, your everyday life was just doing your work? M.S.: Yes.

Judi: Can you think of any other changes that have happened in Lafayette other than the building of the buildings? M.S.: Well, living is much easier. Everyone seems to have more money and times aren't as hard as they were.

Judi: What made you give up farming? M.S.: My husband passed away so I moved to town. I didn't want to stay out there alone. Judi: Is it different living in the city? M.S.: Well, it's people around, you know, so if you need someone they are closer.