

Sarah, I believe, is probably one of our earliest living residents of Lafayette. She came here in 1893 at 10 years old and even more amazing than that, the 21st of this year, September 21, she will be 106 years old. Sarah, thank you for coming here today. Is that all of it?  
No. That was easy.

Okay, I think I'm just going to let Blanche start off and so that both of us aren't throwing questions at you. Okay? If she can't hear you then I'll go with it.

Can you hear me? Yes. I'm going to ask you some questions, Sarah and you just go ahead and tell us what you can about these things. Where were you born? In Holme Hale, Norfolk, England. In England. What was your father's name? Paul Savage. What did he do for a living? In England? Yes. He worked on a farm. He worked on a farm and what was your mother's name? Sophia Savage. Okay. How many brothers and sisters did you have? I had four. Four brothers or sisters? Three brothers and one sister. And one sister. There was five of us. Okay. I also want to know what was your husband's name? Percy M. Brillhart. Okay, and where was he from? Olney, Illinois. He was from Illinois. How did you meet? Oh, I just met him in Lafayette. I was staying with a woman and she run a roomin' house and he got a room there and I met him in the mornin' before I went to work On Good Friday. On Good Friday. That was a Good Friday for you. And then Easter Sunday was our first date. It sounds like he didn't waste much time. It was love at first sight. It was love at first sight. When were you married? In January 1. What year. 1902. 1902. From reading your book, I see that you was married by a woman minister. Yes. Reverend Switzer from the Congregational Church. In this building? She preached here for several years. Were you married in this building? No, I was married at home. You was married at home. This was kind of unusual to have a woman minister at that time wasn't it? Yes, yes. They do have now, don't they? Oh, yes they do have now but at that time most of them were all---. I think she was the first they've had. Uh, huh. She was here for several years. She was here for several years. They seemed to like her pretty well. She wasn't married? No. I remember that she had such a lot of hair. She said she didn't comb it every day. She said it was such a job. She wound it around her head and she braided it. I can remember how she looked.

362 Why did your family leave England? Well, my father made such little money and had to work so hard. We never saw him only on Sunday. We was in bed when he went to work and bed when he came home and my aunt, my mother's sister, lived here in Lafayette on a little farm and she thought that we could do better here. So she sent money for my father and brother to come and then we came afterwards. But it wasn't very good. We had it very hard because----. Well was this aunt, Aunt Jane? Jane Taylor. Then how old were you when you came to the United States? 10. You was ten years old. Almost eleven. Almost eleven years old. So you remember quite a bit of the journey across? Oh yes, everything. How long did it take to make the trip from England to Lafayette? Well two weeks on the ship and one week on the train. So you was gone three

weeks before you reached your destination. What mode of travel did you use? Train. Train from New York and the ship from England to New York. That's all there was in them days. Do you remember any of the experiences or anything that you had on that journey? Well, I know we didn't have too much to eat. I understand that your mother had to pack the food when she left England so that you would have something to eat all the way across. Well then we bought some bread and bologna. And bologna. My little brothers just loved that bologna. We never had any of that in England. But that was after you reached New York. On the train. Uh huh. And you ate that on the way to Lafayette? There used to be a little junction and when people came from Denver and wanted to go to Lafayette, they took this train to Lafayette. Well we didn't know that and the conductor didn't tell mother anything and we didn't get off the train like we should and got on that other train. We went on to Boulder and had to stay in Boulder all day. We didn't have anything to eat and mother was afraid to go uptown to get us anything and there was a man came and he talked to mother and asked her...she looked, I guess, so lonesome, he asked her who she was and she told him. He knew my aunt in Lafayette and he went uptown and got us some donuts, us kids, so we got something to eat and then he went on the train with us that night to Lafayette and went with us to my uncle's house.

Okay, can you tell me where your uncle and aunt's house was located? Well on the ranch, what direction would that be from the school house? East, I think, back over from the old school house. East or North? Was it North of the school house where the Kneebones and that lived? That's where it was. Okay, it was North of the school house. It was North. I never remember just what direction it was.

What was your father's work when he came to the United States and what did he do? Well, he couldn't get any work for a long time. Then he finally got a job, a night watchman for the mine. They called it the Cannon Mine and we lived down there. It was about a mile from town. We lived there about a year and we had two little shacks. We slept in one and lived in the other and had to go out to go to bed but we got our coal from the mine, you know, free and we got along. We didn't have any furniture hardly at all, I know. We just couldn't bring anything from England like that and he didn't have any money and we just had bare -- we didn't have a bedsted, we slept on the floor. We sure had a tough time of it. My brother, he was workin' on the farm. He was workin' for Barrowmans in Lafayette. We lived there about a year and then my father got a job in the mines and we went uptown to live. It was Cannon Mine. It was about a mile from town. Then he hadn't been workin' in the mine very long when he got hurt and lost his foot. That was your father? My father, uh huh. Then what did he do after that? Well it was a whole year before it healed. He had an awful time. Had to go to the doctors in Denver and had a time with it. It was terrible. Then when he went back he got a----. He couldn't wear an artificial leg. He got one but his stump, they cut it off so far down that there wasn't any flesh hardly, and he couldn't wear the artificial leg, it hurt so bad, so he wore just a peg leg. You've seen them before and he wore that and worked in the mine. And worked in the mine with a peg leg. Until 1911. Until

x 775

we went to the homestead. Now when his foot was taken off, was there any miner's insurance or company help? Nothing, nothing. The company never paid a penny. We just didn't have anything, only what my brother made. My brother was workin' at the farm, you know. We had a pretty hard time to get along. I know there was one boy, Abernathy was the name. I don't know if you remember them. Uh huh. Section, they called him. Section Abernathy, yes. He came and asked my father if he'd mind if they give a benefit dance for him. My father wasn't very fond of taking anything, but we needed it so bad so he said yes and I think they got about \$200 from the dance. So we had that. To help with the medical expense and what have you. Where did they hold that dance, Sarah? Where was that dance held? Well, did they have the miner's hall then? I was wondering if they had like a Union Hall. Was there a Union Hall? I guess they did. Yeah. Yes, they had that. That's where the dance was held. They used to have dances there all the time. Just across the street from the library. Caddy corner. Yes, uh huh. Is it there now? Yes, well there's a --- I'm not sure it's the same. Okay.

How many hours did they work in the mine a day? Well, I guess they went about 7:00 till about 4:00, I think. I think they quit about 4:00 in the afternoon. By living at the mine, they didn't have far to go home then. They were just at the mine camp there? Well, we lived uptown then. Oh, you lived uptown then? The Simpson Mine. My dad didn't work the Simpson Mine, he worked in the Excelstor. Excelstor Mine? That was a little farther away and he had a horse and a cart and I used to drive him to work. When I got out of school I used to go get him. So he didn't have to walk?

What was their pay? I don't just remember that but it wasn't very much, I guess. They were paid by the ton? By how much coal they dug? Yes, I guess that's what it was. Were they paid in money or did they give it to them in script? No, it was money. We didn't have script. Okay. We had the company store but we didn't have to trade there if we didn't want to. Okay.

Was the working conditions in the mine pretty bad? Yes. Was there a lot of men hurt? Yes, there was. Did they have any unions then? Was there any mine unions? Oh yes, they had a union. What did the unions do for the men? For the miners. Well they fixed the weigh scale, I guess, but that's about all. They didn't help in making any safety at that time in the mine for the men? What? They wasn't organized well enough to force any safety rules in the mine then? No, no.

Did you, with your husband, live in any of the mining houses? Coal camps? He mined too, didn't he? No. Your husband didn't mine? We just lived in Lafayette. You just lived in Lafayette. But your husband was a miner? No. He didn't mine. He, for awhile before we were married, he run an engine up and down. Engineer. For the mines, he took the men down and brought 'em up. That's what he did and coal too. But then afterward he went in the mine and he ran a electric machine and that cut the coal, you see, and they got paid by the foot for that. I had a little book that he wrote his time down every night when he come home and it stopped the day he got hurt. Eleventh of December. And he

got hurt in the mine too. Yes, he got hurt. I don't know, he went to step over the machine and he fell into it and it was runnin' and it just mangled his leg all the way up from his foot, from the ankle clear up to the knee. It was terrible. We kept it on for fifteen years, trying to save it and then had to have it off. Had to have it taken off. Yes, yes.

1035  
Let's get back to what Lafayette was like when you first came here. Can you remember any of the stores? Drug stores or meat markets or grocery stores. Yes, I remember the drug store but I forget the man that run it. I forget the name of him but I remember the drug store. There was a drug store here. There was a company store, we used to trade there. There was other little dress shops. What was the name of the people that run that, I forgot them too. Little grocery stores, bakeries? Was there any bakeries? No. There was two meat markets. There was two meat markets. Churches? Yeah. There was this church. The Congregational Church was about the only church there was. The Methodist had it in a building and that's all there was. Then afterward, the Catholic Church came and the Baptist. And that's all there was when I left Lafayette. I don't know what there is now. The Catholics, before they got a church started here, they walked to Louisville to go to church. Yes, yes.

Do you remember any doctors or dentists? There were two doctors that we had. Dr. McCormick and Dr. Couch. Do you remember where there offices was located? Well, I think at their homes. At their homes.

Do you remember any saloons? Oh, yes. I really went to a saloon and got a bucket of beer once for my father. Did you? But my brother used to go most of the time. Yes, we had to go upon a hill. Did you take his miner's lunch pail to get the bucket of beer? Yeah. That's most generally what they did. Yeah, they had a tin pail, a piece on top for their lunch, not fancy lunch boxes like they have now though.

Do you remember the school? Oh yes. And where was it located? Well, it's still there, I think. It was the old school upon Baseline? Yes. Well it's been burned down for quite a few years but a -----. Was it burned? Yes, it burnt down, I imagine around 15 or 20 years ago. Oh. It burned down. Well, they don't have any then. Oh yes, they've rebuilt. They are on that spot? No, but further west, they've rebuilt. Oh, huh, huh. Do you remember any of the teacher's names? Yes, Miss Joseph, Miss McKay and the Superintendent was Delworth and Frances. We used to make fun of Miss Joseph. She was an old maid and she wore the same dress the whole time. You know how kids are? They can be cruel. How many kids went to school when you were going to school? Well, I can't remember just how many, but not too many. Was there grades from one to twelve, or what? Eight. They stopped at eight. Sarah, tell Blanche about the incident, what the boys used to do with the damper on the a -----. Yeah, sometimes when the wind was blowing they used to turn the damper and then the whole stove would smoke and we'd get to go home. The teacher wouldn't notice that the damper was turned. It would fill the building with smoke. Well they were ornery then too, weren't they?

The people. How many of the people can you remember when you first came here? Do you remember Mrs. Miller? Oh yes. Mrs. Miller was the founder of the town, you know. And the founder of this church. After the strike, why the militia, they called the militia. They came to church with guns strapped on them and she wouldn't have anything to do with the church anymore and that's when this church stopped. They didn't have a Congregational Church in Lafayette anymore.

x 1557

Now I understand some of the stained glass windows here was dedicated. Do you remember anything about them dedicating any of the stained glass windows? No, they was all here when I come. They were all here when you come. You don't remember anything like that? This old building has many memories for me. I bet you it does. I taught Sunday School here for a good many years. Can you remember some of the children you taught? Well not too many. They were gettin' too big. They got to know as much as I did so then I quit.

Can you remember any of the ministers that was here? Just the Congregational Minister is all. Anybody else besides that Ms. Switzer? No. Well, yes. What was his name. There was one before her. I can't think of his name but he used to come and take my father out for a ride, after he had his foot off. He was such a nice man. I can't remember his name right now, but he was before Ms. Switzer.

Sarah, did they have a lot of functions going on? A lot of doings? Meetings or anything? In the church? Uh huh. Yes, quite a bit. I know at Easter they always had a breakfast to make some money, you know. And the Fourth of July, they had an ice cream social. Here at this this church? Uh huh. Did they have pie socials or anything like that? Well, not at the church I don't think. We had some at the school. I know a boy got my pie that I didn't want to get.

I think another interesting thing that Sarah has touched upon is when the flu hit Lafayette, this church, the Congregational Church, was used as a hospital. Is that right Sarah? Can you tell us a little bit about that? Well I didn't live here then you know but I've heard about it from my sister. You didn't know my sister? No. Her name was Welter. No, I didn't. I don't know whether your mother did or not. I don't know for sure. They just brought the people who were sick right here into the church. Is that right? When the flu...you said they almost called it the black plague. Yes they did. They brought them right here. Some of them almost turned black after they died. My gosh. Yeah they did. Can you remember, well you wasn't here at that time. I can't remember how many patients they had in this church. No I don't know but I know that there was several died in there. The woman where I'm staying now, her grandfather died in there. Did he? Parks, Dallas Parks and his brother Louis Parks and their little girl died. Three of them. Three of them, out of the same family. And I think, yes, and I think Jack Swager died and I think Jennie Barrowman's husband died in there.

Have you lived in Lafayette long? Well about forty some years. Oh. But that's not long compared to your lifetime. No. No, I've been in Boulder that long now. Right.

Sarah. Often when I take interviews of other people living here in Lafayette, I'm told that at times the Klu Klux Klan would come into this church. Yes. Were you ever----? I don't know if they came into the church but they burned a cross at my sister's house. Is that right? Her husband was Catholic. Oh, okay. Was they against Catholics? I think that was it. Against the Catholic religion. Yeah, he was a good Catholic. Worked for the church. They burned and she was in bed and he wasn't home yet. He was someplace and she woke up and oh this -----. Cross was burning. Oh, it scared her so, it's a wonder it didn't set her crazy. I don't <sup>know</sup> why they did such a thing as that. He hadn't done anything to anybody. But I guess it was just because he was a Catholic. I don't know. But we never saw any of them out on the homestead.

X 1876  
You also mentioned that Lafayette used to have a town crier. Would you like to explain that to us? Yeah, when they was going to have a mass meeting they would go around saying there's a mass meeting to-night. Is that a union meeting? Yes, to see about something. I don't know whether that was before the strike or not but -----. I can remember them. They'd ring a bell and say that.

How did your childhood and family life in England compare to it after you come to the United States? Well, at first it wasn't so good. Afterward it got better. Yeah, we didn't have much in England. Barely made a living. That's all.

What kind of games did you play as a child? Well, mostly I could remember, we took walks looking for flowers, wild flowers and things. I don't think we played many games. Not in England. But after we come to Lafayette we used to play run sheep run, kick the can, and one night in Lafayette, at that time, the Marshal of the town used to ring a bell at eight o'clock and the kids had to all be off the street and we were out in the rode playing cause it was light and he rang the bell and got after us and we run into one of the girl's house was close by and we run in there and crawled around the stove to get away from him. His name was George Stubs. I heard of him. Have you ever heard of him? Yes, I have. I don't think there is any of them left. Not that I know of. Well, what kind of games did you play in school at recess? Oh, there was a big ditch and we used to jump over that but not all.

What kind of household chores as you as children did you do? Well I'm afraid I wasn't very good at very much. I used to like to read too well. So you read a lot then? Oh, I was crazy. I think I could read almost before I could walk. I was and am yet a good reader. But I came up here to this church when we lived over there with Kneebones and them and the teacher asked us to read a verse and some of the others was reading, you know, they stuttered and stamered and I thought, just wait until I get up. I read so good and she was so surprised that at 10 years old I could read so good but I just loved to read. You didn't help your mother with any washing dishes or peeling potatoes or household chores of any kind like that? Oh yes. Clean the house? Oh yes, I did a little of it. Yes, sure. But I wasn't very good at it. You wasn't very good at it. You didn't like the keepin' of the house then?

Sarah, when your father worked in the mine, he loaded coal? Yes, huh huh. When your dad worked in the mine? Yes, but he got hurt. And then Percy, at one time, was he a check weighman? Yes, after he got hurt he did that. Okay, now what did a check weighman do? Well, he weighed the coal after the coal miners after the company weighed to see it was right. Okay, so he was for the men. They cheated the miners a lot of times. So then the union paid this man, the union did that. To reweigh it to make sure. That they got what they should have. Yeah.

When the militia was here, that was 19 ----? 1909. 1909 strike? We went through one year of it and we left. No, it was in 1910. 1910 when the strike was. And we went out on the homestead in 1911. Was there any violence in Lafayette during that strike time? Oh yes. Several people killed. It was terrible. What part did the church play during the strike? Did it try to help the people or what? What did it do? Well the union helped for a year. Then they give out and they didn't get any help, I guess. I don't know how they got along. Course we left, you see, then in 1911. We went on out to the homestead. Course my sister was still living in Lafayette and she would write and tell us what happened, you know. And it was at that time when the militia would attend the church that the church folded up also then. Yeah, Mary Miller, you know, she was the founder of it and she wouldn't have anything more to do with it and they quit it. There was no more Congregational Church. But by that time there was a Methodist Church and then the Catholic and the Baptist. I think the Baptist was the last one.

Do you remember the bank here in Lafayette? Oh yes. Jig Miller was the president of the bank. How did the coal mine strike affect the bank? Well I don't think the bank amounted to much. Nobody had much money to put in it. We never had anything in the bank. You went from hand to mouth. Yes.

Sarah, when I was looking through your book last night, your father must have been quite a gardener. Yes he was. He loved to garden. He always had a good garden out on the homestead. Did you do a lot of preserving of vegetables and that. Oh yes. We canned everything. Even here in Lafayette and you canned? Not as much as we did on the homestead because we could get things better here but out there we couldn't. You had to just depend on what you raised? Yes. So he would work all day in the mine and then come ----. He wouldn't even take time to wash, he'd go workin' in the garden. You see the miners didn't get to wash at the mine like they do now. He just had to come home and wash.

Can you remember any other organizations that the people had here in town that they attended? Such as the Odd Fellows and that. Yes. I was a Rebeccah for a few years till I went to the homestead, then I never bothered it any more. Since I've come to Boulder they've asked me to come again but I never cared much about it. But my brother was a good Odd Fellow. He just loved it. He joined when he was 21. He just stayed in it all the time. What part did these organizations play in the community? Did they do good things for the community or was it just a social part of the community or what? Can you remember? Well I

don't suppose they do anything much except for their members. Just for the members. I know Jack used to sit up with people sometimes when they were sick. The members of the lodge. But we used to have Oyster suppers and have good times. Used to have wash boilers full of oysters. Can you imagine what that would cost this day and age? Wasn't anything then was they? No. I think they was 25¢ a quart and you'd get 'em cheaper once you got a whole lot. The women would bring cakes and then I guess the lodge furnished the oysters. We'd have oyster supper and cake after lodge. Quite a good time, you know. They were good times. Yes. That's about all there was to do. No motion pictures. No motion pictures nor TVs to keep you entertained. You did your own. I was telling this lady when I come around, I was talking to a girl in Boulder and she wanted to know about old times and I told her we didn't have no electricity and she said, "How did you wash your hair.?" I said that was the least of our troubles.

What was the weather like? What were the winters like? Well out there they were pretty bad. It wasn't so bad I didn't think in Lafayette. Oh it was about like they are now. Cold and snow and nice times.

Were there any gypsies? No. I've heard stories, when I was a kid, from my grandparents about the gypsies that would go through town. No there were no gypsies there. I never saw any. Oh yes, wait a minute. Yes, the gypsies used to come around. Yeah, they did. But I don't remember they ever hurt us any. They was selling things. Yeah, I remember. What did they sell? Oh beads, I think, and different trinkets that they made. Knick-knacks of sorts. Huh, huh. They always had a big lot of wagons, you know, and traveled around from one place to another. I forgot all about the gypsies. I can remember that when I was little. We used to be kind of leary of 'em though because we knew they had a bad name, stealin' things. We used to be glad when they left. And hoped that you hadn't missed any chickens or something, huh? Yeah, they would.

How about hoboes? Were there any hoboes? No. Oh, I had plenty of them in Lafayette. They used to go and beg people for something to eat and while we still worked at Cannon Mine where my father was night watchman, there was a man stayed there all night and then he came over and mother gave him breakfast and he washed and that and mother talked to him about traveling around so much and she says, what was it, "a rollin' stone don't gather no moss," you know, and he says "stagnant water soon smells". He had an answer for her.

Were there any medicine shows? Yes, yes. Can you tell us a little bit about them? I won a lamp. The only think I think I every won in my life. Yeah. What did they do Sarah? Did they pull up with a horse and a wagon? Yes, on the streets and sell medicine. Was it good medicine? I don't know how I got the prize for the lamp. I don't know how, but I won the lamp. A kerosene lamp? Yes. You know talking about medicine, you used a lot of home remedies, a lot of home remedies. Could you tell us a little bit about some of them? I know you had something that you wore around your neck. We used to have goose grease. We'd grease their



chests with it. That's about all I ever did with it. And there was something that you wore around your neck. Your mom had you wear it around your neck. Oh we had that when we came to America. And what was that? Asafetida. It smelled awful. Yeah, we had that around our neck but it didn't keep us from getting sick. You got sick after you come across, didn't you? After we come off the ship and off the train. Your whole family was sick? Yes, but they wasn't as bad as my two little brothers that died and me, I was the worst, and my mother was awful bad. She was months before she got over it. That was awful bad. Were you still living with your aunt at that time? Yes. We came in July and they were both dead by the 5th of September. In no time at all, hardly. Yeah, that was pretty tough.

What can you tell us about the Woman's Suffrage? I don't know much about that. How old were you when you was able to vote? 21. 21. So they had a ----. Women had the right to vote before ----. You can't remember when they didn't have the right to vote? I can't remember what ----. Well, I know when I was 21 and that was the first time I voted. That would be, let see, I was born in 1882 and 21 would be how much? It would be '93. No, 1903. That was about the first you could vote. It would be about '03. You were married then, right? When you first got to vote? Yes, I was married in 1902. And you haven't missed an election of getting out to vote since, have you? Nope. I even voted last year. So you not only hit the presidential elections you hit the ones in between. Yes, yes we had the city election. I remember right after I was married I was only 19 and there was a man running for something, town council, and he come and asked me to vote for him and I said I would but I can't, I'm not 21. He thought because I was married I ought to be 21 I guess. That was George Barret. Do you remember ever hear tell about the Barrets? No, no. She used to run a little store. Here in Lafayette? Uh, huh, and she had a bell on the door and I used to like to hear that bell ring. I'd run to get a penny and you could get all kinds of the little pipes and all kinds of little things for a penny.

Sarah, do you remember the pickle factory? Was the pickle factory here? The what? The pickle factory. Yes, yes it was. I don't know much about that but I know there was a pickle factory. It was here? Uh huh. We made ours. You made your own.

Did you remember the brick factory? The what? The brick factory. There for awhile they made bricks. I think that must have been afterwards. It was probably later then.

When you set up housekeeping, what kind of things did you buy? Oh I had nice things. My husband went and got it himself and I didn't even know about it. He got four rooms of furniture and I had really nice furniture. I had a nice bed and dresser and commode. They had commodes in them days and then for a present I got the wash bowl and all the little things. I had it all and my dining room set. I had a sideboard and a table and six chairs and the front room, I had a nice couch and my brother got me the carpets. I had a, they used to call Brussel carpets, the heavy ones. I had a red Brussels in the front room and then the others was they called 'em Ingrain carpets and they were not heavy, they were thin. I had that in the dining room and the bedroom and I didn't have

any linoleum on the kitchen. I scrubbed the kitchen floor. Did you have a cook stove? Oh beautiful. Oh I used to shine it and go outdoors and look at it. It was so pretty. Did it have a lot of nickel plate in it? Oh yes and it was a nice range. Had a warmin' oven in it and I just left it when we left Raymer. I just left it there. You know they used to sell for a good price now. Yes they do. I saw one in Louisville and I forget how much they was asking for it. But then I thought of mine. But when I come to Raymer, I used it in Raymer while we lived there but when we come to Boulder I knew we didn't have no use for that because I had an electric stove so I didn't bring it. When you got married, there wasn't cupboards in it, did you have a cabinet, kitchen cabinet? Yes. Kitchen cabinet. They didn't have clothes closets and things in the bedrooms either. No. We just had, I remember I had a curtain put over and there was a shelf up there, that's not nice like they have closets now. And you hung a curtain in front of it and your clothes behind it?

What kind of washin' machine or how did you wash your clothes? On a washboard. On a washboard. Okay. How did you heat the water? Well we had stoves. You had to heat it in a boiler? Right? Yes. When you washed your clothes, how did you bleach your clothes? To get them white? Did you used to boil them? Yes, oh boiled everything white, yes. Everything that was white had to be boiled. I tell you I think we washed better than they wash now. We had two tubs to rinse in. Did you use bluing? Yes, oh yes. And you put that in the last rinse water? Yes, uh huh. I had a little bluin' after I come to Boulder. And you starched your clothes too, didn't you? Oh yes. Did you wear a lot of petticoats? Yes, quite a few. Did they all have to be starched and ironed? Oh my, we ironed everything too. How did you iron? Just a flat iron that you heat on the stove. And in the summertime you did the same thing? You had to have a good hot fire. Yes. I got an electric iron when I come to Boulder. I got an electric iron then. That's the first I had.

X 3012  
There sure is a lot of changes isn't there? Yes there is? What style of clothes were you wearing? We got to talking about the petticoats. When you come to Lafayette, what kind of clothes did you wear? Well the dresses was all long. They were all long. Did you wear dark stockings? And they were long, long for a good many years. Did you wear long dark stockings? Yes, oh yes. And did you wear those in the summertime as well as in the winter? Oh yes. Well the kids went barefooted but I never did. My cousins, when we came, my aunt had two children, we had two cousins. They were barefooted and I thought I've never seen anybody barefooted. I said to mother, "oh don't they have any shoes".? Then all the kids went barefoot in the summertime and I wanted to go. I asked mother if I could go and she said well if you think you can stand it. So I took my shoes and stocking's off and I walked up town from the Cannon Mine and oh, I thought I'd never get home. That's the last time I ever went barefoot. I was crying with my feet. Probably had blisters on 'em by the time you got home.

X 3090

Where did you buy your shoes and that? Did you buy them here locally from a store or did you use a catalog to order them out of? Well we could buy them in the stores here but we always had to use a catalog when we went out on the homestead. And you ordered all your clothes from there? Did you sew any of your clothes? Did you make any of your own clothes? No, my mother said she thought I'd run a mile to get away from a needle. So you didn't do any embroidery work or crochet or -----? No, I'd just read. You'd just read. But mother was always crocheting and knitting and doing everything. She made our clothes. And she made your clothes too? Was the fabric hard to get at that time? To make clothes out of. Well I guess not too hard. If you had money to get it. What did you wear, calico dresses or ----? Yeah. Then you had a nice wool dress or something for Sunday School? Yeah. I had my dark red dress in England and I brought that with me, of course, and I wore that until I was about fourteen years old. It was my Sunday dress. My picture is in the book with that dress on. Hats then? When you dressed up you had to wear a hat. Oh yes. Where were your hats made or did you make your own? No, we bought 'em. You bought 'em? They had military stores here in town? That hat that I had in my weddin' picture. It's in the book, no not in the, yes it is in there when I was 18. It's in the book and I paid \$5.00 for that hat. I bought it in Denver and that suit, I forget what I paid for that, but not too much but it was awful nice. I was all dressed up. That's what I had for Easter when I met my husband.

Sarah, is this the ring that Percy gave you? Yeah, uh huh. It's pretty. That's eighty eight years old.

How many hair styles did you have? Did you wear braids when you was a kid? No, I wore my hair loose. I didn't have it braided. Did you wear braids later on? No, I don't think I ever wore any braids. You talked about in the book where you went and had a marcel. Can you explain what they are like? What? A marcel. You had your hair marceled. Yeah, I had them after I come to Raymer. They just curl it. It doesn't last very long. It's like a curling iron, right? Yeah. And it kind of crimps it. Not like a permanent. No. I remember the first permanent I got and then when it began to go out why my brother said to me why I thought you said that was permanent. He thought it would last forever. Did you ever use rag curlers? What? Did you ever use rag curlers? Yes, yes I used to put my hair up. Now how did that work? How did that work? How do you put your hair up in rags? Can you tell me? No, not in rags. I had little curlers. My sister put it up in rags. They just take the strand of hair----. I noticed in that picture when I was fourteen, in the book, it's curled and she put it up in rags. You just take and wrap your hair around and then tie the rag? Yeah, uh huh. Sort of like a kid curler. Did you have kid curlers? Well, I had some but they was like a little ---. You'd put your hair in it and then turn it and snap it and I had some of them.

What can you remember about the communications? Mail, here in town and where was the post office located when you came here? It was on Main Street and I remember the post master's name was Becket. Do you remember anybody by that name? No I don't. Becket. I've heard of a Jim Becket. His name wasn't Jim, I don't think. They had a little boy was Rex. But the post office was there on Main Street. The telegraph.

office? Was there any telegraph offices here? I suppose there was one in the depots. In the depots. They were located in the depot. Were there any telephone offices? Yes, yes they had a telephone office. But most people didn't have one then. No. Just the business people and that. But there were telephones when you came? Oh yes, there were telephones. How about a radio? Oh no. Did you ever listen to a crystal set? A what? A crystal set. Where you put it on your ears? Uh huh. Yeah, that was in about 1924 they had them. But you couldn't hear very good. You couldn't hear very good. We didn't have a radio on the ---, course we didn't have no electricity, but we had a, what do you call it that run the ---? Batteries. Battery, uh huh, for our radio. We had that on the ranch.

How did you prepare your food? Did you do a lot of preserving and canning? But how did you take care of your meat? We pickled it with brine and we didn't smoke any at all we just had ham---- did you salt any down?--Bacon and we made sausage. Then we'd cook the sausage and pack it in big crocks and pour lard over it to seal it and oh it was so good in the summer time. It was good. Yeah.

You talk about suet pudding and gravy. I'm interested about that. What is suet pudding? Well I don't know how mother used to make it but she always had some suet for it. And I guess that's all it was, cut up in flour, and then tied up in a cloth and cooked, boiled. Mother made all kinds of dumplings to fill us up. In England, I don't care much for dumplings, I had too many of 'em. Did you boil your dumplings in broth or in water? Just water. Just water, and they were kind of like a biscuit, right? Yeah. Breads? Did you make a lot of bread? Oh yes. We made good bread. You made all your own bread. I wish I had some of it now. It makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

Is there any favorite recipes or favorite things that you used to cook that you still like? No, not many. My mother used to make plum pudding that I'd like to have. It was so good. Raisins, you know, and things. And she steamed it? Huh. Did she steam it in a pot? She boiled it in a cloth. But my friend here in Lafayette, Babe Pierson, she used to make it in a steamer. She didn't put it in a cloth. She put it in and then steamed it. But it wasn't as good was it? Well it was pretty good though. It was pretty good though. I haven't had any since she died. She used to make it every Christmas.

When you lived here in town, you wasn't out that far that you had to plan ahead for the winters where you bought a lot of potatoes or anything and put 'em down in the cellar? No, not while we was in Lafayette. Course we always had plenty. We raised a lot of our own while we was on the farm. You raised all your own potatoes and carrots and stuff? Yes, oh yes. We raised really good potatoes. Can you tell me how you put your carrots and stuff down? Well we put them down in the cellar Did you put 'em in dirt though. Did you bury 'em in dirt? Yeah, that's what we did. And onions, did you hang them up or how did you keep your onions and that for winter? Well we put everything down the cellar. We had a beautiful garden out there and on the ranch. We had a good well and we piped the water from the well to the garden and put it in the rows

and watered it and oh, we just raised everything in it. Tomatoes, oh I canned so many tomatoes and I can't look at a tomato now. I don't like 'em at all.

What did the men dress like? What did they wear for their work clothes and then for their Sunday clothes? Just overalls. They didn't have the tight lace knickers? Oh no. No, they just wore ordinary pants? Yeah. And a sheepskin coat. They wore sheepskin coats a lot in the winter time? Yeah.

What kind of modes of transportation can you remember? Well, course we only had a wagon when we first went. We got our first car in 1919. We got a second hand Ford and believe me it was second hand. But I'll bet you thought you really had something though, didn't you? Percy went to Denver and got it and he didn't know anything about driving a car but he drove that home and the next day we were going to go to town to New Raymer. That's about twenty miles and we got about half way there and the tire blew out and mother said, "oh, somebody shot at us". She didn't know it was the tire. We had to wait until somebody come from town to take us in to town. Did you ever have a bicycle? No. My husband did. He used to ride a lot. He had a bicycle? Yeah. But you rode horseback, didn't you? Yeah. After I went out there. I never did in Lafayette. Did you ever go to town or just to the neighbors or what did you do? Oh yes, I never rode to town, that was too far, but I always went to the post office like that and I herded the cattle and done things like that.

Was there any buses in those days? Was there any buses that went through town or just trains? No, I don't think there was any buses. Just trains that went through town. Yeah.

What can you remember about the streets here in town? What were they like? Were there street lights when you first came to town? Were the streets lit up with electricity? Yes, yes. Course that was '44. When I first came to Boulder. But I mean when you lived here in Lafayette. No, I don't think there was any street lights then. I can't remember any.

The sidewalks? Do you remember them? Were they flagstone? Board sidewalks. Board and a ----- . Was there any flagstone ones too? I don't believe there was. Just all board sidewalks.

Do you remember anything about the first world war and how it affected your family life. Oh yes, I was out on the homestead then, you know. Did you have any of your members of your family have to go to the service? They wasn't fit to go. My father had his foot off. They wouldn't take him and my brother had been hurt some in the mine and he couldn't pass and Percy had his foot, still had his foot on then, and it was awful bad, you know, he was on crutches and they wouldn't have him so they didn't go. But I remember the rationing tickets we had.

Do you remember the depression? Yeah, very much. How did that affect your family? Well, of course, we wasn't out of something to eat because we was living on the farm but the stuff we had to sell wasn't worth anything, you know. I sold eggs for 5¢ a dozen and that didn't

buy very much, you know. But we wasn't as bad off as the people was in town, I don't think. Cause you did have your food that you raised? Yes, yes that's it. We had a good garden. That went a long ways. What did you have to buy then when you went to town? During the depression, did you buy kerosene for the coal oil lamps and that type of thing when you did go to town? Well we didn't buy only what we had to have, like flour and stuff like that. Coffee and tea and sugar, spices and things like that to make things with.

Do you remember the second world war? How did it affect your family? Well, not so much. Do you remember any of the rationing or the things that was hard to get? Well we were rationed after we came to Boulder. I forget what it was that was rationed. Sugar was rationed. Sugar. Meat was rationed. Yeah. Do you remember the gasoline stamps? Oh yes, yes. We wanted to go to Thermopolis, Wyoming to take the baths. My husband thought it would help his leg, you know. They wouldn't let us have gas. They said we would have to go on the train and we didn't want to go on the train because Thermopolis was quite a ways from in to the town that we wouldn't have any way to get there. So a Senator that we knew, Senator Johnson, he got us gas to go and we went to Thermopolis and Percy took the baths and it did help him quite a lot but of course it couldn't cure him with his foot the way it was. That was before we had it off and I remember we stayed there a week, no two weeks and oh it was hot, it was awful hot there and the mosquitos, I never saw such beig mosquitos in my life. There was a woman there from , where did she come from, Arizona. She wanted to take the baths for whatever ailed her and her and I used to go on walks all around and you know in Thermopolis, Wyoming there's a lot of formation like there is in a ----- Yellowstone --- no like there is in where there's, you know, where people want to go in the summer time. Is the formations from the alkali in the water and that? Yeah. Limestone? Where is it that that ----- . We wanted to go there but they closed it during the war. They wouldn't let anybody go there. Cave of the Winds? Manitou Springs? I can't think of the name of that. Was it here in Colorado? Oh no. No, it's in Wyoming. I can't tell you. Well everybody knows it I know. Probably. We can't think of it either.

Can you tell us anything about when your husband had his leg off? That was in 1918, yeah. And he had to go to a Denver hospital to have it taken off? Yes, yes. When we went to Denver to see another doctor we didn't think of having it off. Didn't think it would have to be and when this doctor looked at him, he said you should have had that off long ago. He said that it would never get well and so he said he could go into the hospital today and have it off tomorrow and that's what we did. When I wrote home, cause there was no telephone, I wrote home to my mother and told her that he had it off and oh my father took it so hard because he had lost his, you know, and she said he just cried like a baby. It hurt him so. They was all so fond of my husband, just worshiped him like they did my brother. Always got along so good and but after he had it off, why he got a lot better then. Oh he was so bad before we had it off. He was taken morphine and just, oh he looked like a ghost so it would have killed him, in time, if he

hadn't had it off. But it healed up and the doctor said it healed the quickest he ever had <sup>an</sup> amputation. He got along just fine. He happened to have a good doctor. How long did you stay in Denver? How long was he in the hospital? He was only there about ten days and then we stayed with friends for a little while and then we went back home. And that's when the flu was so bad, you know. 1918. And we went home with the mail carrier, we went to the town where he picks up the mail there, then we went there to the post office and my folks met us there and this man knew we come from Denver and he kept saying, everytime we'd see him, he'd say "are you folks all well, you haven't been sick?". He thought we come from Denver where the flu was so bad, we'd sure have to have it. But we never had it. Not then, but we had it afterward. Do you remember, were you pretty sick with it? Well, my brother was the worst. He had pneumonia, he was awful bad. Percy didn't have it but I was pumping water for the calves when I had a 103 fever. I remember that and my mother, she was gone to a neighbors. The neighbor was going to have a baby and she was gone to help over there and then we had a bad snow storm and she couldn't get home and there we was, all of us sick. And she was taking care of the neighbor lady. Yes. They did that a lot, you know, go from -- take care of people. That's what they had to depend upon, was your neighbors. The doctor did come out afterwards.

X 3685  
Getting back to Lafayette, Sarah. Can you remember how you celebrated Christmas? Did you have a Christmas tree like we do now? Not so fussy, no. At the Congregational Church they always had a, I don't think they had much of a tree, I don't believe but they always gave the kids a bag of candy, you know, we always had exercises. I remember I was going with a friend of mine, C----- girl and she didn't go to church and she wanted me to go someplace with her Christmas Eve, when we had the party at the church and I said no I couldn't go, I had to go to church. She says, "oh are you afraid you won't get that bag of candy"? I can remember her saying that. But I wouldn't have missed going for anything. They used to have little exercises you said where the children would recite verses and what have you. Yes. Is that what you meant by exercise? Yes.

X 3730  
I notice that you remark often that you and Percy did a lot of hiking and walking around. Not too much, he got hurt, you know. Right. In less than two years after we was married. So all that new furniture that you bought, you had to store quite often, didn't you? Yes, I had to store it when he got hurt and I went and lived with my mother. And then when we went out to the ranch we didn't take near all of our stuff with us, we stored it then. Course my sister, she still stayed in Lafayette.

Now there's two things I want to ask you about. Since we're on the ranch now, I'd really like to hear about the time that Percy went out in the blizzard. Cause I have never heard of a blizzard that bad. Where you had to grab a hold of the -----. That was me that done that. Can you tell us about that, Sarah? Well there was a terrible storm,

I think the worst they'd ever had out there. The cattlemen said that it was a --- and it was in March, the beginning of March and we woke up in the night and I looked out the window and I said to Percy, I said "oh I bet it's one of them things they call a blizzard". I'd never seen one cause we don't have blizzards in towns like that, you know. In the morning he always went over to milk with my brother and my mother's house was not too far away and so he got there --- I didn't know if he even got there. So after awhile I thought I would go over to mothers and I opened the door and oh it come at me and I thought well I can't go and I thought well I've got to go, I can't stay here, not knowin' if he didn't get there. So I stepped out and made myself go and we had a clothesline that we'd put up half way between mother's house and our house so we could both use it and I found that clothesline and I got a hold of it and I knew that I must stay up and I mustn't let myself drift cause I'd drift way down and be lost, so I stayed up and pushed myself up and finally I got there. I hit up against the house and I didn't know where I was and they was all in the house and they said oh, why did you come out and I said well I just didn't know and I was goin' to find out. When they have blizzards like that, the wind comes from all directions, don't it. Oh, oh you can't see anything. It's terrible and miles and miles of space, you know, nobody knows what it is. In the '30s, did you endure some of the dirt storms? Oh yes, we had them. We lived in Raymer then. They were bad too, weren't they? Well we didn't live in Raymer in all of the dirt storms because one day we were driving to Kimble, Nebraska. We was about on the edge of Nebraska and we banked in Kimble and we were driving there when the winds came up and we didn't know where we were goin' hardly. Oh, it was terrible. We got into Kimble and we didn't know we was there. It was terrible. Did you stay there until it was over then? Well it was over and we went home. It got better but then we had terrible wind storms. Did the tumbleweeds blow against the fence and bury the fence? Oh yes. They rolled around and caught on everything. Did you lose any live-stock? Well we didn't have --- when the first blizzard was, we didn't have very many. We'd only been there two years and we had ours all in the barn. But the cattlemen, oh they lost hundreds of heads. We were lucky about that. No, we didn't lose any. The blizzard would drive them right through fences and everything, wouldn't it? Yes, they'd gather together up against the----and the ice would get over their nostrils and they couldn't breathe and that would kill 'em.

Sarah, what do you credit your long life to? Oh well, I don't know. I can't think of anything. Only after I got over being sick, typhoid fever, I haven't had many sick spells. I've always been pretty healthy and I've tried to live a good life and do what's right, that's all I know. And you've lived to where you're 105 and soon will be 106. I think you must have had the right formula. There's none of my folks lived this long.

It's been a real honor and a pleasure. My mother was only 72 when she died and my father was only 65. My brother was 65 and Percy was about 76 and my sister was 84. Mother had four sisters and they all lived to be over 80 and my father had one brother that lived to be over 90, way in the 90s, none of 'em ever reached 100 but me. Not very many people do. I never thought I a--, well I never think anything much about it. The years roll by and that's it.



Well it's been a real pleasure and a real honor to set here and visit with you today. It's been nice to talk about it. And I'm so happy that you was able to come and that we could get this tape. You don't know the number of people that we have that want information about this. I go out quite a bit. I go to church in Golden. They have an Episcopal Church there. St. Johns, and I go there quite often and I went up to Boulder for my birthday last year. I remember seeing that on television.

What are your plans to celebrate this birthday with? Oh I haven't thought much about it. I expect I'll go up to Boulder. And visit some more friends? Yeah. But you know Lafayette has always seemed -- course it was the first place we come to and I grew up there and I went to school there and married there and lived there and it always seemed more like home to me even more than Boulder ever did. I didn't ever know so many people in Boulder like I did in Lafayette while we lived there, we knew everybody. Course it was so small then. I wouldn't know anybody now. I still know Burt Pierson here. Do you know him? Yes, I do know Burt Pierson. He's a nice fellow. Yes he is. And Babe was so good, I felt awful bad when she died. They were good to you. Yes, oh yes. Because, you see, their folks was the first ones I knew and George Kneebone, he's the son of the older Joe Kneebone. He comes to see me sometimes. Oh does he still? Yes and he brought Anna Barroman with him one day.

When you first came today you said something about that you remembered Mary Jane Moon. Yes, oh yes. That was my husband's grandmother. Mary was. Mary Jane Moon was my husband's grandmother. Well. Do you remember Johnny Moon? Yes. That was my father-in-law. Well. When Percy got hurt I lived in a house and Mary Jane lived in old man Jenkins' two rooms there and she had the two little boys and I remember she wanted me to watch them while she went to the store. They was asleep.

Do you remember the tent houses around Lafayette? What? The tent houses that was made out of a canvas with wooden sides. No, I don't think I saw any of them. Where were they? Well there was quite a few around town here but grandma lived in one or Mary Jane lived in one and it was just west of the cemetary, northwest of the cemetary. No, I don't believe I do. You don't remember those?

Sarah, there's something, when I was a kid here in town, I would ride horses too and my mother will tell you that I stayed away from all kind of chores also, but when I would ride in this area I would find a lot of indian artifacts, a lot of arrowheads. Did you ever have occasion to come upon any indian ---? They used to hunt them. Is that right? I never had any collection of 'em. But I was wondering if there were tepee rings or anything around here that that early in time that there was still some trace as to where the indians stayed or did you ever --? No. No tepee rings where they had had their tepees or anything like that. I know people gathered indian arrowheads, they liked to keep them. I used to find, not whole ones, but chips of flint. I had a lot of rattlesnake rattlers. Is that right? Oh boy. I bet you got those out on the homestead. I remember the first one I ever saw.

I'd never seen any in Lafayette. I don't think there was any. I don't think so either. Oh, I was driving the cows home and that cow bellowed, he was afraid of 'em and there was a great big long rattlesnake and I was scared I run home and didn't bring the cows. Then they told me I must always take a stick with me and be careful. One day, I was going down the basement, down the cellar we called it, to get potatoes for dinner and there was a little ledge when you opened the door and there was a big rattlesnake laying in there and he was coiled and just as I stepped back he sprung and I threw my head back and he fell right there. If I hadn't thrown my head back he'd caught me right in the throat. That was a narrow escape I had. I was so scared, I didn't get any potatoes. You had your meal without potatoes. When Percy come home I told him and he went down and shot it and got it out. And another time, we had a shed and I had nest in there and chickens used to lay in there and I was hunting the eggs and it was almost dark and I put my hand on this and I thought, oh this don't feel like a chicken, and it was a big rattlesnake, coiled up in there and it was so cold I think if it hadn't been so cold he likely would have struck me. But that's the two narrow escapes I had. After that I bet you went before dark to gather the eggs. I was scared to death. Percy shot it. It was a big snake. Oh, there was a lot of 'em and I guess there still is. They're probably is, although I do think hunters and stuff have tried to thin 'em out. They are so deadly.

I used to live in Eastern Colorado too. I lived at Burlington. Oh. They had a lot of snakes there too. When I was just a kid, the folks had a sand box outside the house. You haven't been in Lafayette too long then? We came here in 1941, I think it was, '41 or '42 somewhere along in there and I've been here ever since. I'm not an oldtimer, I keep saying.

Sarah, is there anything you want to add to this? Anything you want to add? Anything you want to talk about? No, no. Anything you'd like to leave with us? That the young children today would enjoy. I mean, you know, you are really a statistic here. Being this old and what have you so I didn't know whether you would want to tell 'em, you know, to be good kids or what.

Well Sarah, I notice that a few times in your book <sup>unknown</sup> unbenounced to you, you did leave little tidbits for us. One of 'em that I had to laugh at was the time when you were having such a hard time with your crops and you wrote to your sister-in-law and explained to her and you received a letter back from her which aptly more or less said 'I'm not interested in your problem'." And then when she wrote back, she said she had two letters with hard times in 'em from her mother and from me. Well I didn't know what else to write only about what we had. And your saying that went along with that was that you learned --- she thought I was asking her for some help, but I was just telling her that we had a hail storm and it took everything. And the lesson that you learned from that, you said, was not to tell your relatives your problem. I've learned that a few times. Another instance was when you worked so hard to make that butter and you took it to Mother Brillhart

the butter, I wish I had that butter right now, I'd eat it. That did make me feel bad. She was so set on anything, she had a brand, I forget what they called it, butter, and she always used it and she wouldn't change. Taste that butter. Another thing that I thought ----. And I don't see why I didn't take it to my sister. She would have been glad to have it. But I thought I was goin' to Percy's mothers and of course that's all I had to take. Also, I was surprised, I never heard you say this before. You used to be called Sally and you want to tell us why you changed your name when you came here to America. Well when I came to Lafayette and went to school, I thought Sally didn't sound very good and they had a song "Big Foot Sal" and then I changed it to Sarah. Your name was actually Sarah though? Oh yes, I was baptized Sarah but I don't know why they called me Sally. My brother was John and they called him Jack. My sister was Mary. But they didn't nickname her? No.

Sarah, thank you very much. Thank you. It's been our pleasure. I've enjoyed it. We have to. It brings back old memories. And I think it's neat that we could show it here. Some of 'em are kind of bad and some of 'em are good. Yeah.