

SARAH BRILLHART - PAGE 1

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Donna Carbone and Neva Snelson picked up Sarah to bring her to the Lafayette Library Theatre for a video taping session. On the way from Applewood to Lafayette, Sarah enjoyed the fruit trees in beautiful bloom and the snowcapped mountains. For almost 106, her eyesight is fantastic. With her double hearing aid, her hearing is quite good too. The most amazing thing about Sarah, though, is her memory. Donna's questioning brought instant remembering.

Sarah is a lovely lady. Her white hair is quite sparse. Her skin is pink and quite beautiful - especially for 105! She is in a wheelchair, but can use a walker. Her small frame is rather stooped.

The following are bits and pieces of Sarah's conversation in the first person:

We lived in a little house by the Cannon Mine.

We came from England to Lafayette in 1893. There was a depression at the time. We lived in two little shacks - one was for living and we slept in the other one. We had to go outside to go to bed! That was about a mile from town by the C&S Depot.

We lived at the Kneebone farm right after we came to Lafayette.

We shopped in Boulder occasionally. It was hard to get there.

I taught Sunday School at the Congregational Church until I was married. I knew Mary Miller. We would go to her house on Friday nights to prepare for Sunday School.

I went to school on Baseline Road. There were two rooms and a recitation room. The grades went to the eighth. I didn't go that far in school, though.

Percy, my husband, came to Lafayette from Denver to find work. He was a check weighman at the mine. Isn't it ironic that both my husband and father lost a leg in the mines? There was a union at the mines at that time. I don't think they could have got along without the union. However, Percy told them in 1909, "Don't strike", but they wouldn't listen to him. I think that strike lasted four years. Because of the strike, we left Lafayette in 1911 and moved to New Raymer.

After the strike, the Congregational Church fell apart. Mary Miller always supported that church. But she wouldn't have anything to do with it because the Militia used to go in there with their guns strapped on. There was a lot of trouble and killings with the Militia during that strike.

In the early days in Lafayette, there was a company store and two meat markets. One of the markets was run by Moons - that's where we shopped. One day I went to Moon's Meat Market and asked Bill Moon, "Don't you have any dates?" He said, "Why Sarah, don't you know I'm married?" I said, "Well, so am I."

Peterson's Ice House was in Lafayette when I lived there.

We had no electricity. Mother had electricity - she had one light bulb. One time I was talking to a young girl in Boulder. When I told her we had no electricity, she said, "Oh, how did you dry your hair?" That would have been the least of my troubles back then .

Nobody I went to school with is alive now. They all were gone years ago. Sometimes in school, the boys would close the damper on the stove chimney which made smoke come into the schoolhouse. The teacher wouldn't notice what caused it, so we'd get to go home.

I have pretty good health. My stomach bothers me some. I get tired easily, but I'm fortunate to be as good as I am.

(Noticing the dandelions in a field along the road) The dandelions are pretty there, aren't they - but not in your lawn. I remember I used to come out with a paring knife and cut them out.

I lived close to Mary Jane (Jones) Moon - I went to school with her.

I knew the Liley's. (Owned the Liley Mine).

I knew George Bermont who had the store. Mrs. Bermont was my first Sunday School teacher.

We had two doctors in Lafayette - Dr. McCormick and Dr. Couch. I don't think either one of them knew very much. I think one killed my brother. He gave him some medicine and when the other doctor came and saw the bottle of medicine, he threw it out in the yard. Both my little brothers died from typhoid fever and they thought I would die too - but here I am! We must have got the typhoid fever on the ship coming to America. We came steerage class and we were herded in with a bunch of people. It took us two weeks by ship then a week by train to get to Lafayette.

When we used to go to Boulder Canyon for a picnic, it would take all day - we'd go by horse and wagon and would eat our picnic lunch and come back.

Mary Miller lived in town in Lafayette when I knew her. I worked for the Jack Carruther family when I was out of school until I was about 18. I worked hard there. They had four children and I did all the wash by hand on a washboard. I was paid \$2.75 a week plus my board. I went home to sleep. When I would get there early in the morning, I would be so cold. Mr. Carruther would get up and unlock the door to let me in then go back to bed. The house would be so cold and I'd have to build the fire. I had to bring in the coal and chop the kindling. If he had been a different kind of a man, he'd have built a fire for me. I had no days off. One time, she gave me a few hours off but she wanted me to take one of the little girls with me. I refused because I told her I didn't want Mother to have to look after her, because I was so tired, I just took a nap. They weren't very nice to me - and they were English too! What people didn't put up with back then!

We rode the Inter-urban to Denver some times.

There were plenty saloons back then - about four of them up on the hill. Mary Miller wouldn't allow saloons on the east side of the street. (Highway 287).

Agnes Stewart and Florence Williams lived next door to my sister when they were little girls.

I knew Bill and Anna Barrowman - I knew Bill better than Anna because when my brother first came to Lafayette, he worked for the Barrowmans.

During the flu epidemic, there was a hospital in the Congregational Church. Carol *PERISCHO* grandfather, Dallas Parks, died in that flu epidemic in Lafayette. (Carol and her family are the ones with whom Sarah now lives in Applewood). Dallas Parks' brother and child also died from the flu. That flu was different than the flu as we know it. They called it the "Black Plague". They brought it over from Europe.

(As Sarah was admiring the snow on the mountain peaks, she observed, "Soon, they'll be talking about opening up Trailridge." What a mind'.)