

Interview with Merwin and Lucille Harrison by Teri Deane  
February 17, 1984  
Tape #1052

I'm interviewing Lucille and Merwin Harrison at their home, 211 E. Cleveland, Lafayette.

Where were you born, when were you born and when did you come to Lafayette?

(Lucille) I was born right here in Lafayette. I lived just a block from where I live right now. I've lived here most of my life. I was born in 1913. Then your parents came to Lafayette from where? My father came to Lafayette from Nebraska in about 1897 and he worked on the Lafayette Miller Ranch, that was his first job and he came in time for the third cutting of hay, so that would have been late summer, I suppose. He worked for the Lafayette Miller Ranch for two or three years doing different kinds of jobs, wherever they needed him until he started working for Bermont and Vanderberg in the Bermont Store and he worked there 43 years. What did he do? He was a clerk. He was a clerk in the Bermont Store. Why did they come to Lafayette? Did he hear there was a job? There was no work in Nebraska and so my grandfather and grandmother in Nebraska, when my father and this friend of his, young Fitzgerald decided they wanted to come and they were going to bump trains as they called it at that time and my grandmother wouldn't hear of it, so my grandfather gave them a covered wagon and a team of horses and they came on over to Greeley where the Fitzgerald boy had a brother already in Greeley, he had a potato farm and he stayed there and my father came on down to Lafayette and got on with the Lafayette Miller Ranch. At that time then, Mrs. Miller was living? Yes, she was living. But I think her husband had died? Yes, that's right. Do you have any brothers and sisters? I have a brother, yes, who is living in Texas and has lived there for many years now. He was born here too? He was born in Lafayette in 1907.

Okay, how about you Merwin, where were you born? I was born in Ogala, Kansas. Oh, I've been there! It's just a wide spot in the road. My folks moved out here when I was three years old and I think the first place they came to was Parker, Colorado and moved into a ranch there, not a ranch but a farm. My father worked for Colorado Milling and Elevator Co. and so they came to Broomfield in 1916, I think it was, and he started working in the elevator and when we first got there why we had to live in a tent out on the south side of the elevator and then they finally fixed up the warehouse that went with the elevator where they had feed and stuff like that. They petitioned that off and made a place in there for us to live and then we lived there for quite a while until finally the elevator company built a house east of the tracks there in Broomfield and then we moved into there. I forget what year it was, 1930 something, we built a house down on the east end of town and after my dad retired, why they sold it and moved to Denver and that's where my dad and my mother both passed away down there. So you came to Lafayette in what year? I started to school in Lafayette, high school, I went through what they called the Lorraine Grade School down there and went through the grades there and then Broomfield didn't have any high school at that time so I rode the Motorways Bus to Lafayette to come to high school and that was in 1928. Did you meet then, in high school, here? (Lucille) We were high school sweethearts. Oh, how nice. I started going with Lucille in 1928 when we were freshman and I'm stuck with her yet. What year were you born? I was born in 1914. How many children do you have? Two. Two sons. One is manager of a lumber yard in Alamosa, CO. He's the youngest. Jerry, our oldest son, he's a supervisor in Denver. He works for United Airlines and he lives in Longmont and drives back and forth every day to work.

Jerry in Longmont has four sons which makes us grandparents of four there and two of those are married now. One of them just got married here lately and one is in the Marine Corps and they still have the youngest at home going to school. Next year will be his last year of school. John, our other son just had an addition to his family the 7th of February, another boy. The Harrisons have nothing but boys, no girls. (Lucille) Our family will carry on as far as Harrisons are concerned. Yes, yes that's for sure.

You lived in Broomfield and you rode a bus up here to school because there was no high school in Broomfield? There was no high school at all. When I lived in Broomfield, the population was 100. Considerably different from what it is now. I rode the Motorways Bus up here and there were several other students that rode from Broomfield to Lafayette. We got a rate because we rode the thing every day, you know, to school. We got to know the bus drivers pretty good.

Where was the high school at in Lafayette? The high school was where the middle school is now, Angevine Middle School. Was it called Angevine then? No, it was called Lafayette High School. Course that was back in 1928 when I started here. (Lucille) We graduated in 1932 from high school. Were there a lot of students in your graduating class? There were 38 students. (Lucille) We just had our 50 year reunion a year ago last August and we took the classes of '32 and '33 at our banquet and we had 79 people, I think it was. Of the two classes? Of the two classes, yes, of course that was husbands and wives. That was quite a turnout for us and some of them came from Florida and some from California, Montana. We covered the United States pretty well.

Okay, I've heard that you were a rural postmaster? Rural mail carrier. Oh, mail carrier, okay. Tell me about that. Well it's just the idea of sorting the mail for people out in the country and sorting it all out and getting it in order then putting it in your car and go out and follow your route and deliver to each box. I did that for 22 years and when I first started out why, if I recall right, I had 42 miles and I don't remember the boxes but it seems like to me it was 196 boxes or something like that, that I delivered to and it gradually increased to the point where I had 700 and some boxes and 78 miles, I believe it was, and then at that time it got to be a heavy duty route so they cut my route. To start out with my route included Louisville, Rural Route Two and then when they started cutting me, they took off the Louisville route and they made another route over there and then the first count after that why they found that I was still over burdened, so they cut, I forget how many miles there was off there, everything south of Lafayette they cut off and that left me with the route north of Lafayette and when I retired I wound up, I think it was 39 miles but I still had 460 boxes or something like that. That sounds like a lot to me. It is. Did you deliver the mail once a day or every week? Once a day. You traveled that every day? At the time that I was a or when I had the 700 and some boxes I was working as much as 14 hours a day to get it put up and delivered. I don't doubt it. I'd be working in the post office when everybody else had gone home but that's the only way I could get it done because we just had that much mail. You operated out of the Lafayette Post Office, is that right? Yes, that was my home base, you might say. Then when I was carrying the Louisville mail too, I had to go over there and sort mail and pick up the mail for the Louisville part of that and then everything I picked up on that part of the route I had to bring back to the Louisville Post Office and then when I left there I was back on the

Lafayette route again and it was quite a job there for a while. Yes. When did you start? What year? 1956 I think it was. Okay, now did Lafayette, the city, have home delivery at that time? They were just starting out with city delivery. I think when I first, if I remember right, when I first got there, first started working at the post office, they hadn't started city delivery yet and then it was less than a year after that why they started in and there was two carriers. Jack Allen and Jim Schreiter were the two carriers in town and then of course since then they've been increasing and increasing and I don't know how many they have now. Quite a few. The total post office crew up there now is considerably more than what it was when I was there. You traveled further and delivered to more, as one man, to more people than they do today. (Lucille) When he first started, the post office was up where our drug store is now. Just before he quit, I guess you worked in the new post office about two years or something like that? Something like that, yeah. So, he only lived two blocks from the post office where he had to go to work. That's when it was up where the drug store is now. (Lucille) Nor rain, nor sleet, nor storm, sometimes he would come home and the ice would be built up so heavy underneath the car that he could hardly turn the wheel to steer the car into the garage. I carried an iron bar with me all the time so I could get out and break the ice from underneath the fenders so that I could turn the wheels. There's been times that I can remember that the snow was so deep that I would push it in front of the car and it would come clear up on the hood of the car, of course I didn't get through but that's what I was trying to do is get through but I just sometimes had to give up. (Lucille) Tell her how you carried the chain in the car for when you got stuck. I was always getting stuck with that car, as many as 10 to 12 times a day I'd have to get out and shovel myself out and I carried a tow chain with me all the time and it was always in the back of the car, you know, there was times that I used it but most of the time I just shoveled myself out. Well as I got older and less likely to shovel why I got the idea, gee if I could get that chain out and fasten it to the front of my car and then just stand and wait for a car to come along maybe they would stop and help me which before they would see me digging out, you know, and they'd go right on by and wouldn't stop to help that way at all. After I got the idea of fastening the chain to the front of the car, you know, and then stringing it out and stand there and wait for a car to come along, I had real good luck. People would see that I had a chain and they'd stop, I'd hook it on the back end of their car and they'd pull me out and away we'd go. Sure was a lot easier that way. Was this your own car that you had to drive? Yeah. You didn't have a mail truck or anything like that? No, I didn't have a mail truck, just my own car. All the rural carriers, well they are starting now to get postal cars for rural carriers but I think the biggest part of them still drive their own cars. I know Phyllis Allen is the one that took my place when I retired and she still drives her own car. She's got an Eagle now, I think it is, four wheel drive which makes it a lot easier too. What kind of a car did you have? Well I traded on the average of about once every two years, now, mostly Fords though. Okay. (Lucille) One time a Bronco and then another time he had a , the last one was a Scout. The last one I had was a Scout, a four wheel drive. The four wheel drives are nice. But most of the time I just had a two wheel drive car and I guess that's the reason I was digging out so much was because, you know, if you have a two wheel drive why your back wheels start sliding but if you have a four wheel drive, why sometimes you can get traction. But don't let anybody ever kid you, you can get stuck with a four wheel drive too.

(Lucille) I'll have to tell you, when I was born, my father went around announcing to the neighbors, there were no telephones to speak of, maybe a few here in town but he went around announcing to the neighbors that there was a new dishwasher at the house, at that time it could only mean a baby girl, see, because they didn't have automatic dishwashers then.

Do you remember any of the old businesses in town? What do you remember when you were a little girl? (Lucille) My folks bought a two story house and a, over there on Cleveland Street, and they were taking in boarders. The first boarders were all women and one of them ran a milinary shop here. She ordered the hat forms, the flowers, the feathers and everything and then sewed them on to please the customer, you know, and she had ladies from even Boulder and Denver come here to make hats. Her name was Mrs. Bailey, she was a widow. Our other boarder was Ms. Amter, Josephine Amter, who was the city clerk here and then Ms. Jones who worked in the same store with my father, boarded with my folks for 17 years. The rest of them were all teachers at that time. The teachers had to be single and had to live in the town where they taught. Lafayette did not have a teach base, as they called it, or building to house them all so the teachers lived in the different family homes around town that had an extra bedroom for them to stay. Over the years, we kept, I think we counted one time about 15 different teachers that taught here in Lafayette and one of them was Miss Bird, the music teacher.. She would go up and down the stairs, she would sing the scales on the way up and one the way down, you could hear Miss Bird when a ----- . I can remember another teacher we had, I don't remember where she came from, Miss Jaloty, but she had pennants hanging all over the bedroom even on the ceiling from all over, wherever she had been, you know. So they brought a lot of things into our lives that my brother and I, as we were growing up, the different people that came and stayed at our home. We were never teacher's pets because the teachers that lived with us didn't happen to teach the grade we were in at the time. It made our lives quite interesting because we had so many different people coming in and going. My mother, one time, before my father and she bought this two story home, it had six bedrooms, why she had gone to a fortune teller, Miss Scott, an elderly lady here in town who told fortunes with tea leaves and she told my mother, she said "You're going to move and this home that you're going to buy, over the years will have lots of trunks going in and out and boxes and people" and mother didn't believe her, you know, that was one of the things, but it really came true because the teachers were coming and going. If they lived very far from Lafayette why they came with trunks and all their luggage and books and things and then in the Spring they'd go home again and then in the Fall they would be back. So it was continual trunks and turn over.

Where was this house at? It's over here at 209 East Cleveland, still standing and it's on the historical list. Oh! That's one of the five buildings, I think. It was built, originally, by a family by the name of Culdren and my family name is Cundall and my folks lived there for over 50 years. Was it a boarding house all those 50 years? Yes, it was really built, in the first place for a miner's boarding house and because it still has the original little wash house out in back. The miners, in the early days of mining why the miners wore their miners clothes to and from work. They didn't have wash houses at the mine where they could shower and clean up and change clothes before they came home so all the older homes, the boarding houses in Lafayette had what they called a wash house and the miners would go to the wash house first and change their clothes and then go into the boarding house for their meal. This

house over here, where I lived most of my life, folks bought it in 1919 and the wash house still stands and the young couple that lived there wanted to keep the outside looking like it always has except for a few changes. There was one family who took a lot of brick brack off of the front porch but they're hoping now that the young people will restore it. (Merwin) He got a picture from us so he could tell what it looked like before he moved in and he wants to fix it up again so it looks like it did in the beginning. Oh, that's great, I like to hear that. People restoring things. He's a carpenter so it will be real handy for him, if he ever gets time to do it.

(Lucille) My father was Mayor of Lafayette three different times. Oh, he was? The first time, I think, was in 1918 and I don't remember the other dates. Three different times he was elected Mayor of Lafayette besides sitting on the city council at different times too and he was a volunteer fireman, I have his certificate and his gold pin. Do you know what years he was in the fire department? I can't remember the years, no. It was quite a long time, I'm sure.

What was the fire department like then? (Merwin) Hose and Cart. (Lucille) Hose and Cart. And they'd ring the bell? They'd ring the bell, yes. Then they'd go rusing out and grab the cart? They use to have their races and practice up and down Simpson Street here. Up at City Hall, you know, that used to be not offices, they had their hose and the cart in there. In that building, the City Hall? Where the City Hall is now. They used to have a ramp come down there and when they practiced or go to a fire why the guys, I don't know whether they had harnesses or what, but anyway they pulled that hose cart back of them and you ought to see them go down the street here, they were fast. Really? When they'd get to the fire plug wherever the fire was at why there would be one guy hang on to the hose back there and the rest of them would go on and unwind the hose and hook up to the fire hydrant, just like they would now with a truck, only they did it with a hose cart. Because they didn't have the firetruck then? Nope, no firetrucks. Lafayette still has an old firetruck around here someplace, I don't know where it's at. (Lucille) Up at the fire station. My father, well the young men in Lafayette they held dances over in Louisville, what they call the Redman's Hall over there and my father became acquainted with a Louisville girl, so when he would go over to court my mother why the Louisville boys would untie the horses and send them back home and my father would have to walk back from Louisville to Lafayette to come home. So maybe that's when the old rivalry started, I don't know but they were married in 1905. She was from Louisville? Yes, she was from Louisville. My mother was one of the first telephone operators in Louisville. The switchboard was in the back of a dry goods store at the time. They didn't have their own telephone office, they just had a small switchboard in the back of the store. Your mother's parents, did they come and homestead or pioneers or how? They first came to Pennsylvania and then on to Louisville and their first place was out on what we call "Gunbarrel Hill" and they had a farm there, well it was dry land and at that time they didn't know about farming like they do now and they lost the farm. Then they moved into the town of Louisville and then they opened a little dry goods store and my grandfather passed away in 1913 just the week that I was born and my grandmother had to raise the children. She took in sewing and so she raised her children by taking in sewing. Do you remember the name of the dry goods store that they had? I have no idea what it was.

Most of her family, my mother and her brother were old enough then, at the time, to go out and work but my grandmother raised the rest of the children. How many children were there? Eight altogether. Bigger families in those days? Yes, that's right. Then your mother and father met and then they came to Lafayette? Yes, because my father was already working in Lafayette and they bought a home down on Cannon Street, that's where my brother and I was born. I always say I didn't get very far, I just live a block from where I lived when I was born.

Do you remember the strike in 1920, either of you? (Lucille) 1910? I think there was two wasn't there? (Lucille) Well it lasted ----. Oh, I see. (Lucille) I don't remember it but I remember a lot of different things that the folks told about it. I can remember that the neighbor, Mr. Nell, came over and told the folks to be sure and sleep in the cellar that night because there was going to be trouble. I remember my mother telling about that and she thought that was so kindly of Mr. Nell to tell us. They were bitter times. (Merwin) The only thing I can remember about that strike was I can remember when they brought the soldiers in and I can ----. (Lucille) That was in 1923. (Merwin) Was that when it was? Anyway, I remember then walking the railroad tracks making sure, I guess, there was no explosives set on the tracks but it was a wild time. What were the soldiers like? How many came? (Lucille) It was a militia and I don't know how many came. (Merwin) I don't remember either. Did it seem like a lot? Did you see them in groups in the street? No, I think they were pretty well spread out trying to keep an eye on everything, you know. I don't remember them in groups at all. Maybe two or three, you know. Did they blend in with the town? Did they live in the town? (Lucille) Yes, they certainly did because my mother's sister married one of the soldiers. Oh, she did? They were part of the community then? (Lucille) Yes, I think there were several marriages, you know, at the time they became acquainted with the soldier boys and a ----- Getting back to the strike, I guess it was pretty rough. They had machine guns and if you were out at night they would shoot at you? (Merwin) There wasn't too many people that went out at night. They tried to stay in their house or in the basement, as Lucille said. (Lucille) I really don't remember only what the folks told me. The actual part of it I was too little to remember, except the strike of 1923, out to the Columbine Mine they called in the militia and they didn't have much trouble out there but we were in school and I ----- Does anything stand out about that incident? Nothing other than they were bad times.

What I've never quite understood, was when they, I don't know if it was when they brought in the militia, but at one point they took away the arms of the people in the town. They took away all the rifles, guns -----. (Lucille) I don't remember that. (Merwin) I think I remember hearing about that but I ----- That always struck me as odd because of your right to bare arms. Your constitutional right ----- (Merwin) Well there was a, if I remember right, there was a guy over on Baseline that was killed, shot to death. I can't remember his name now. It was due to the strike that he was killed? (Merwin) They get so radicalized, I guess you'd say, that it just leads to fighting all the time and that leads into killing, if they go that far with it.

I've heard that you are the great-granddaughter of Bermont? (Lucille) No. Mr. Bermont was no relation to us at all. My father worked for him and that's all. He just worked for him?

What businesses were on Simpson at that time? (Lucille) On Simpson was the Rocky Mountain Store, (Merwin) There was a drug store on the corner down there, (Lucille) There was a drug store, Smith's drug store down on the corner where the the Senior Center is now and there was Gordon's Grocery Store. (Merwin) Where the Senior Center is now? (Lucille) Yes, there was a drug store on the corner there. (Merwin) Well how about Dow? (Lucille) Dow was on the block down below where Aldersons and I think it's a little manufacturing place in there now, I'm not sure whay they're doing. It was empty for a long time. It was Aldersons and before it was Aldersons it was Dow's Drug Store. So there were two drug stores? Yes, huh huh. I think Smiths were here before Dows came and had the drug store on the other corner. (Merwin) Peltiers. (Lucille) Peltiers Confectionary Shop was out in the middle of the block, close to where the laundromat is now. The bank was on the corner, where they restored the new building down across from the Senior Center, there used to be a bank on that corner. Did that bank burn? Yes, huh huh. That whole block burned, didn't it? (Lucille) At one time, on the other side of the street, that whole block burned. Okay. Do you remember any of it? (Lucille) I don't remember it. I just heard my folks talk about it. I remember the grade school burning up here but that was after we were married. What started the fire there? I don't know what started it but it was due for the demolition squad. They were getting ready to tear it down. I don't know whether it was arson or just what, but the thing that made it burn so fast and so hot was the fact that they used to oil all the floors, you know, to keep the dust down and stuff like that and those floors in that school was soaked with oil. Lucille and I was coming home from the mountains, I guess, and we were clear down there on the hill up above Broomfield, on the Rocky Flats there and we could see that fire from down there. It was a big fire. Good thing that there were no children in it. (Lucille) It was vacant and had been vacant for quite awhile and they were using the other building.

What was it like going to grade school there? What do you remember about it? (Lucille) I can remember my girlfriend and I, we talked the janior into letting us ring the bell and so we were pulling the rope and we turned the bell completely over. We pulled too hard and he had to go up on the roof and turn it back over again. I don't remember too much about it other than just enjoying going to school. How many grades were there? There were 12. It went through first ----- Was it one big room with all 12 in the room or -----? No, the rooms were divided. There were enough rooms for all the grades. Each grade had their own room? Yes, of course at that time they didn't have kindergarten or that, you know. It went from first to twelve. Then I think in the high school then at that time that probably the Juniors, Seniors and Sophmores were mixed together more in one room than maybe they are now. Well I guess they do mix them together now. (Merwin) When did they build Angevine School, do you know? (Lucille) I think it was a couple of years before we graduated, so that was probably --- (Merwin) We graduated from the grade school. (Lucille) So we graduated from Angevine. (Merwin) You and I did, yeah. But I went four years at Angevine School. I started in the ninth grade there. (Lucille) That's right, so you would know more about what year it was than I would. I can't remember. (Merwin) I don't know when it was built but I know I started to school there in 1928. (Lucille) And it was quite new then. (Merwin) Yeah. What's this now that you're talking about? (Lucille) It's what we call the Angevine School, it was built around 1920. Oh, oh okay. (Lucille) That's where I went to high school, well Lucille too but I started to high school here and had gone through the grade school down in Broomfield. What was your grade school like? (Merwin) My grade school? Was it pretty much like this

one? (Merwin) No. It was a one room schoolhouse out in the country. It was a mile and a half from Broomfield south and all eight grades were in there. There wasn't too many students there but we had to walk a mile and a half every day to get to school and that far back at night. It was just a little one room and it had a bell on the top of it and I did exactly the same thing to it as Lucille did to the one up here. Did you have one teacher or two teachers or ---? Just one teacher was all. She taught all eight grades. Had a big old pot belly stove in there to heat it and the teacher would always try to get there early to get the fire going good to try to warm the room up. If it didn't warm up why we would wear our coats in there. That was all the heat we had, was just that one stove in there. When you had big snowstorms, the school cancelled. I know today that if we get a little bit of snow, they cancel school. (Merwin) They didn't do it like that when I was in grade school.

(Lucille) I don't ever remember them cancelling school. (Merwin) Then of course in those days when we were going to school, the kids walked. I can remember walking through a snowstorm and I had a, the folks had got me a big gold sheepskin coat, you know, and walking into the snow, I can remember snow was stuck to the front of me but the kids walking they didn't think anything about it. Kids aren't like that anymore. If they can't drive their cars to school why they're ----- (Lucille) Course I just had three blocks to walk. But I can remember some times that the wind would blow so hard that, and I was a little girl, that it would almost blow my legs out from under me. When we had those hard winds because there wasn't all the houses in between either then. A lot of the lots were vacant going from here up to school. There was more room for it to blow and also probably the trees weren't as many as you have now. (Lucille) That's right. I can remember the fire drills were always exciting because the grade school was three stories and there was always children coming down these wooden steps and it sounded just like horses, you know. Then we'd have to stand out doors in line and wait to get back in. It was exciting. Yes, it was exciting.

(Merwin) Another thing that was different then. We didn't have paved streets, we didn't have gas heating. When the streets went in, I think it was like \$700 to get the pavement in and we lived on a corner which made it a little more expensive than it did for other people. We didn't have gas because this was a coal mining town and most of the people here were miners so they wanted coal for heating puposes but Public Service was persistent, you know, and they finally got gas in here and then when Lucille and I, when we first started living in, it's 211 1/2 East Cleveland now, when we first started living in the little house on the alley there why we had a coal stove. We burned a few holes in the rug, you know. Then we went to propane, we had a 500 gallon propane tank out in back and I think we were the last ones to go to natural gas because we had that tankful of propane out there, you know, and we wanted to continue with it because it was good heat but it got pretty expensive so we finally decided to go to natural gas.

Did they have a coal person bringing the coal? Up and down the street? (Merwin) Yeah. Did they shout anything? (Lucille) No, you'd call them and order it and they'd deliver it to you. (Merwin) They'd bring in a truck load of it. (Lucille) You'd tell them whether you wanted 1, 2 or 3 ton of coal and they'd tell you about when they could deliver it. Everyone had a little coal shed out in back and that was one of the chores my brother had as we were growing up, why he had to fill the coal pails. When he come home from school, why there was about 7 coal pails that were empty and he would take them out and put small



chunks in one, then medium sized in another and then the large and the large ones usually went in the stove at night so they would hold until the next morning. (Merwin) Then of course at that time too, we didn't have any indoor plumbing, we had to follow the path out in back and they had ashpits for ashes you know. You'd carry ashes out there and if the wind would get to blowing why you would see sparks a flying to beat the band and it's quite different now. No ashpits, no outdoor toilets, ----- Natural gas, electricity. You had electricity, or was that something that was brought into Lafayette? (Merwin) Yeah, we had electricity. So that's been here for a long, long time then? (Lucille) Yes, huh huh.

How about any peddlers? Were there any peddlers that would come down the street? What were they like? (Lucille) There was a little elderly lady from Louisville, her name was Mrs. Carlton and she had, we called it a suitcase instead of a piece of luggage at that time, she always came with Irish Laces. Where she obtained them from, I don't know, but she'd make the trip over to Lafayette once or twice a year and when she would come, like being a little girl, I loved to see that suitcase opened and to have her show mother all these laces which mother bought some for my dresses or whatever. Then there were other peddlers that came through town that a like these Indians and they would come with their beautiful brocades and bedspreads, all kinds, tablecloths, bright colors with the gold, you know. They had all kinds of peddlers at that time, even vegetable peddlers going down the street, horse and wagon and then later on trucks with carrots and all different kinds of vegetables. Fruit peddlers and let's see, what other kind did we have. (Merwin) I can remember when I was a kid in Broomfield of a truck that used to come by there all the time and he sold vegetables and fruits. But the thing that makes me remember this is the fact that the railroad track running through Broomfield, was kind of rough and that truck went over the tracks one day and he bounced some stuff out and there was a whole little keg of mincemeat and the driver just kept right on going, he didn't know he had lost it so I run up there and I got that little keg of mincemeat and something else, I can't remember what it was that bounced out, and oh I love mincemeat to this day. And then the ice man, we used to have the ice man come along and fill your ice box because we didn't have refrigerators like we have now and you had to remember to dump the water pan underneath it, you know, as it melts why it fills up and so when once in awhile I'd forget it after we were married even, we'd forget that ice pan and it would run over on the floor. How long did a block of ice last? It kind of depends on how hot the weather is and how much you opened the door on the ice box. (Lucille) Probably two to three days and if the ice box was really well made and well insulated it would keep for quite awhile. Then when we were kids we always watched for the ice truck to come along and the ice man would chip off a few pieces of ice and we'd eat it. Talk about sanitation!!! We never thought anything about it. Well did the peddlers go down the street and holler out that they were coming or did they knock on your door? (Lucille) They'd knock on the door. (Merwin) I think there was some of both --- once a peddler found out that you usually bought something why then he'd come to your door and then he would tell you what all he had. (Lucille) We had the Raleigh man and then there was one other real popular brand that, I can't remember the name of it now but the Raleigh man used to make trips around town.

What did he sell? (Lucille) Oh, Jello, coffee, tea, all kinds of spices and there is still Raleigh products being sold but people used to wait, well I'll order it when the Raleigh man comes around. (Merwin) What was the name of that tea company? There was the Raleigh man and then there was a, was it Union Tea or --- (Lucille) I can't remember now. (Merwin) Anyway, he was about the same as the Raleigh man. Were they herbal teas or were they just regular? (Merwin) No, just ordinary teas. Herbal tea is more up to date. That's what I thought. (Lucille) At that time too, they didn't have a merchandise mart that the merchants from the different stores would go, you know, like they do now, they'll go down to the merchandise mart and order. At that time when my father was working in the store and this lady who lived with us, Miss Jones, she usually did all the ordering for the dry goods department and when they'd come home in the evening why we'd hear Miss Jones say "Well the dry goods salesman, Mr. so and so was in today and I ordered so many yards, so many bolts of this and that and the other and so many yards of ribbon." My father might say "The Solitar salesman was here today or Morey Merchantile was here today and I ordered so many cans of this and that." The salesman made the rounds of all the different businesses. (Merwin) Car salesmen were the same way. Most cars in those days were sold at home, you might say, because the salesman would come around and try to talk you into selling a car. Now days you want a car you have to go to the dealer. Oh, I didn't know that about cars. Do you remember when your family first had a car? Did people in Lafayette have a alot of cars, maybe that's the question I need to ask? (Lucille) My folks had a car that I don't remember because it burned in the garage. I was just six years old when they moved here and they had the car when we lived down at the other house so that was about 19-- probably 1918 or so that my dad had a Ford Model T and they said they never knew really what happened that two boys were going down the alley and they were smoking and the cigarettes or cigars that they were smoking they threw in the weeds and our garage caught fire and burned our first car. You don't remember it? I didn't really remember, I was too little. I know they had a car and that was probably around 1917 or 1918. (Merwin) Gramps had a Model T touring car, you had to put the curtains on the side you know to keep the weather out or you could put the top clear down in the summer time and ride along there in the breezes. I can remember one time after he sold the touring car he bought a brand new sedan, had two doors, one on each side and you had to come in, the front seat you had to go between the seats to get in it an then of course the back seat you'd sit down right as you come in the door. But he bought that car brand new and it was an expensive car at that time. He paid \$900 for it. That was alot of money then, wasn't it? Yeah, that was alot of money then. Dad worked at the elevator down there in Broomfield and as I remember his salary, and it was supposed to have been a good salary at that time was \$150 a month. Now, that isn't even a good salary for a week. (Lucille) I think when my father when he quit working his salary was a \$100 a month but we did get our groceries and things at cost. But his salary itself was \$100 when he quit.

(Merwin) Things have changed in just the last 10 years, quite a bit. Yes, actually they have when I stop to think about it. That's true. (Merwin) Lucille and I can remember when the radios first come out they were crystal sets and then it wasn't to long until they come out in a box and you could plug into electricity and they'd squeek and squawk and make alot or racket. Then of course as time went on they got better and better. Air-planes. I can remember aiplanes. I can remember taking a ride in an airplane and it was an open air cockpit. You'd stick your head out the side why the wind would blow your eyelids closed and then you couldn't see. That was quite popular then, the open air cockpit. They didn't have these big airliners they have now. And the first radios weren't electric? No, the first ones were crystal sets. Crystal? We got one at home. Down the basement someplace. But it was a stone they called it Crystal. Then you had a little wire needle that come down and you'd have to adjust it on that stone to find the loudest voice or whatever it was. I can remember when my folks first got theirs, why my brother and I wanted to listen to it at the same time and only had one set of earphones, so we'd split the earphones and he'd listen with one side and I'd listen with the other. At that time why they had serials, you know, you'd listen to a certain part of the story one night and then the next night there would be another part and I can remember this one serial, I don't remember what it was but it was supposed to be a spooky, scarey thing and they tell you to turn your lights off and make it dark so it will make you feel more scarey and that. That's the only kind of entertainment we had, I guess, where we listened to it at night. During the day why the kids would just make their own entertainment playing outside. Kids played outside more then I think. (Lucille) Oh yes, we played outside until a -- the folks would have a hard time getting us in. We'd play all over the block and two blocks some-times, all the neighborhood kids got together and we'd have more fun. Anti I over, that was where we'd throw the ball over the house and then the other kids would catch it and then run around and try to catch you before you could escape. One of the other games was tag. We'd have good times, we played out. Another thing that as I was growing up, I remeber the front porch swing. The swings on the front porches and people walking in the evenings and going by and they would stop and visit. That was such a nice thing. Now people build their patios out back of the house and they build up privacy fences and everything but in the days of the front porch when I was growing up was really wonderful because people would get out in the evenings. They wouldn't ride, they walked around, they visited more. I think more discussions were made over the rail of our front porch than a ----. We had ice cream socials on our lawn. We'd string lights across from tree to tree and I don't remember how many times the folks would move the piano out on the front porch and someone would come and sing solos and there would be homemade ice cream and homemade cakes. Everybody would turn out. (Merwin) It used to be that we knew everybody in town. (Lucille) When there was any doings, everybody turned out. (Merwin) Now the only ones

we know is our next door neighbor, you might say. People across the street. You know alot of places, people don't even know their neighbors. (Merwin) Lucille used to come down town and she'd tell me who all she met, you know, now we can come down town and we don't know anybody. All new people and people are on the move all the time, they don't seem to stay like they used to. Families, years ago, used to move into a house and they stayed there the biggest part of their life. Not anymore. No, now it's more a mobile society. (Lucille) Yes, that's true.

Did you ever have community sings where everybody would get together and sing? (Lucille) Yes, we sure did. Where did they have them? Well, over here, it's a plumbing shop now. They used to have what they called the Union Hall and they would bring in entertainers and they called them Chautauqua Entertainers and they'd entertain. Then after those programs were over, why everybody would sing, they'd get somebody to lead, you know. Most all of the school programs they would have someone get up and lead everybody. What songs did you sing. Was there any particular ones that you liked? (Lucille) I can't remember right now. I can always remember one song that I used to sing when I was a little girl. My mother's two brothers had gone to France in World War I and I had learned the song, "Keep The Home Fires Burning." So every time I'd sing it for them they'd give me a dime. That's why I remember that one. I made money on it.

Did they show movies in the Union Hall? (Merwin) No, they had a theatre right across the street from the Union Hall. Where the plumbing place is now. Is where they had the theatre? So Union Hall was across the street here? (Merwin) Where the old a -- well I don't know what it is now, it used to be the old telephone building. (Lucille) It's the plumbers union now. (Merwin) Is that what it is? I used to work in the theatre over here. Oh, you did? I was the projectionist for quite awhile. Oh, really. What kind of movies did you show? (Merwin) Oh gosh, that's hard to tell. I remember alot of them were serials because, I think it was Saturday afternoon, they used to have a serial for the kids and you'd get in there and be running that projector and the film would break or something and boy oh boy, things would start poppin', kids would stomp their feet, you'd think the building was going to fall down. I don't know, it was just all kind of pictures. I suppose it's like it is now. Whatever was popular at the time? (Lucille) It would be a full house too. People really went out, no television, you know. This was our entertainment. (Merwin) At one time, you could get in and see a show for a dime and the kids used to pay a dime all the time. (Lucille) I can remember seeing Long Chaney in the Phantom to the Opera over here and I was so frightened that I ran all the way home. Did they have popcorn, coke and things that they sold? Yes, huh huh. Not coke but I think along towards the last they started getting pop. What happened to the theatre? (Lucille) It burned down. When was that, do you remember? It was probably in the 1950's. I'm not sure. (Merwin) I don't remember, it's been along time a go. (Lucille) Well, let's see, one

of the boys used to go up in the projection room with you. Was that John or Jerry? (Merwin) I don't remember. Jerry I think. (Lucille) So somewhere in the 1950's it burned down. Why didn't they rebuild the theatre, if it was so popular? (Lucille) Well at that time, they had built the drive-in theatre between Lafayette and Louisville and they could go in cars and they were going for that. Was that the L and L Drivein? Yes. (Merwin) Well there was people going to it but it wasn't paying for itself so they just finally closed it up. I don't know what started the fire. (Lucille) Before they had sound why they always had a piano player as the movie was going on why there was someone playing the piano and she would play, if it was a rough scene or a fighting scene, she would jazz up the piano a little more, if it was a sad scene she would play something sad. Of course along the bottom of the picture they'd give you what they were saying. (Merwin) You don't know what that's all about do you? Oh, I've seen them on TV. They had them come on Charlie Chaplin or ----. (Merwin) But you saw them on TV. I would love to. I would love to go back and see them. (Lucille) Oh, Laurel and Hardy and some of them old ones, we would never miss them. They were so much fun. Yes, they were good. Actually we are lucky that we can see them on TV now. (Lucille) That's right.

What do you remember about World War II? What was Lafayette like? Were you in the war? (Merwin) Yes, I was one of the lucky ones. I had to spend all of my time on the Hawaiian islands, which was rough. No it wasn't rough. Actually it was good duty. There was a few times that we thought somebody was coming into the islands but it never materialized at all. But mainly what I was in was aviation ordinance. They used the Hawaiian islands while I was there for pilot training and we'd have to load the ammunition into the machine guns, load bombs and torpedoes and rockets. We had to load all the planes that way and then the pilots would go out and they had an island, I forget what they called that thing now. They'd go out and they'd practice before they went on south. When I was on the Hawaiian islands why the war had gone on south to the other islands, you know, Guada Canal and stuff like that. The duty I had there was we were only call 24 hours a day. There was many a time we had to get up during the middle of the night and go out and load up all of these planes because they had what they thought was a ship coming in and I think it was, I can't remember exactly, I think it was 120 planes and we had to load all of those and then the next morning they'd have an all clear signal and then we'd have to unload them all. They didn't keep them loaded all the time. Just when they thought they were going to need them. Well, you weren't there during the attack on Pearl Harbor? (Merwin) No, I went in after that. I worked at the Ordinance Plant down here at the start of the war and I was down there for two and a half years and then I went into the service after that. So I got into the service late compared to most of the guys that went in. But they wouldn't let me quit down at the Ordinance Plant. They said

I was needed there. Finally when things started slowing down there a little bit why they let me go and I went on into the service. By that time I was 33 years old. I was an old man for going into the service. Yes, I know alot of people would go in when they were 17. (Lucille) Yes. We were already married and had a son almost five years old. Well it was a voluntary thing when you went in. (Merwin) Yes. So then anybody of any age could choose to go where lately it has been a draft type. (Merwin) Well they had draft then but beings I was in the arms plant there making ammuniton, that's why they wouldn't accept me. But after it started slowing down and I finally talked them into letting me go why that gave me a chance and I went down and volunteered. I guess they were still having draft at the time I went in. What was Lafayette like? (Lucille) We had alot of boys from Lafayette that were in the service. Some of them lost their lives. (Merwin) If you go up to the cemetary why there's a stone up there that has alot of names on it of boys that were in the service.

How about the great depression? (Merwin) Well I can remember Lucille and I living on \$10 a week. We didn't always quite do it. We had to have some help from our folks too. Well this was right when you were first married? (Merwin) Yes, right after we were first married. Boy, that's a bad thing. It's hard enough when you're first starting out. (Lucille) That's right. Well were the people in Lafayette affected pretty hard by it? Do you remember? (Lucille) Yes, I'm sure they were. I don't remember, course my father working in the store and everything, he had work why we managed but there were alot of people affected by it. Were the mines operating then? (Lucille) Yes, they were operating then. It didn't affect here like it did some other areas.

Blanche said that she thought that you attended church here. (Lucille) Yes. My grandmother, in fact I think in the records, that they have here when this was the Congregational Church, my grandmother and my aunt came forward in this church. My mother was Catholic and my father belonged to the Congregational Church. So I went to mass in the morning with my mother and I came to the Congregational Church in the evening with my father. I had a little of both worlds. But I can remember much about coming to church here. How was it set up? (Lucille) The pulpit was over there. At the very back? Was there a big organ that they played? No, they had a piano. Did they have a bell? I don't every remember a bell. I can remember one on the Baptist and the Catholic Church but I don't remember a bell on this church. They might have had one but I sure don't remember one. The ministers at that time, some of them didn't live in Lafayette. They would come out from Denver on a Sunday or maybe from Boulder. We didn't have a resident minister for the church and so my father would bring the minister over to dinner on Sundays.

Were you on the Library Board? (Lucille) Yes. Do you remember when? That was probably, I'm trying to think. It was probably about 1962, around there, cause I can remember in the house where I am now, sitting in the dining area working on books, so it was probably around 1962 or '65. So were you on the board when they came into this building? Yes. Fred Stones was here. Yes, Fred Stones. How many board members were there? There were six. Was that when Effie was librarian or was it when the other lady was? (Merwin) I think it was before Effie. (Lucille) That was a little before but it went into Effie's time. When you were on the board here. (Lucille) Yes. I know that there is alot of moving now. A lot of people don't like to see the library move. (Lucille) I really hate to see it move. But then a ---. (Merwin) That's what they call progress. (Lucille) Progress and I know they need more room. Badly. I agree with you too. (Lucille) But I do worry about what's going to happen to the building. I think they are going to sell it. (Merwin) Yes, I've seen in the paper where they already have it up for sale. This and the city hall. Oh, it is already up for sale? (Merwin) That's the way I understood it. I don't know whether they are trying to get money to build a new place or what. But I saw it in the paper where they're asking for bids on it. Both here and a ----. Also where the old rodeo grounds is at. They got that up for sale too. (Lucille) Did you know that at one time that they used this for a hospital. It was during the 1918 bad flu epidemic and so they just turned the church into a hospital. Were there people just on the floor? (Lucille) Cots were brought in. Cots. Who was the staff that handled it? Dr. Porter was here at the time and they had several women who had had some nurses training and they took care of them there. About 1918? Yes.

When the library moved in here, what was here at that time? Was it empty? (Lucille) The Christian Science people bought it from the Congregational Church and the Christian Science people held their meetings here for I don't know how many years before the town bought it. Whose idea was it to make it a library? (Lucille) I'm wondering, I'm not sure, it might have been Mrs. Angevine. Possibly, I think maybe it was her. I could be wrong but she might have had alot to do with it. Where was the library before? (Lucille) It was down in the next block, in the middle of the block, I can't tell you which building. (Merwin) Wasn't that in the old bank. There was an old bank building in there that had a vault. (Lucille) Yes, it was in there for awhile and then it moved into a little corner of the Rocky Mountain Store for awhile too. (Merwin) Oh yeah, I forgot about that. So it moved twice? How did the library come into being? (Lucille) We had a Study here and they had alot to do with creating the library and then I think one of the churches, I think even yet when it was the Congregational Church, back in this very room why they started bringing books in here for people to read. Whether that was really the original thing I don't remember for sure. Someone else could tell you. But the Wednesday Study Club which we donate

and still carry on had alot to do with the organization of the Library and donating books. Alot of the books were originally donated? Yes and we still buy books for the library. When one of our members passes away why we'll buy a book in her memory and donate it to the library.

Oh yeah, Blanche told me something kind of interesting that your Aunt lived down here on the creek and that she had her house moved because of the flood. (Lucille) Yes, that's right. What can you tell me about that? I can't remember the date that the worse flood came down Coal Creek but it did move the house off----it was a large two story house, moved it off the foundation. At that time it was on the east side and we had to cross the bridge, the river or the creek to get to it and I remember the night of the worst flood that they came to my father and said that we had better go and get the folks, you know, and bring them up into town and we brought my grandmother and my aunt across the bridge before it went out. We got back across. What was the address of that house, do you remember? Well there were no addresses then, it was just East Baseline Road, I guess you'd call it but after it was moved to the west side of the creek where it is now and it has been re-modeled and that ----- you delivered mail there, do you remember that? (Merwin) I knew that was coming but I can't remember what the address was now. (Lucille) But my aunt was living alone and she was afraid of another flood and so they had a man that lived here in town that did house moving, his name was Emery Adams and he moved the house to this side. You don't remember what year? No, I don't. I've got it written down. Was that the big flood when it washed out everything in Coal Creek Canyon? (Lucille) Yes. Okay, I remember that flood. (Lucille) Well no that would be --- you're too young to remember the ----- To remember the flood that ---- oh this was before? (Lucille) Yes, huh, huh. I've often said that people don't realize that that area could be flooded because it's been so long ago and going between here and Broomfield when you cross that little bridge down here south of town, that bridge was washed out too. All that area down in there below where Centaurus is was flooded one time. Oh really, I didn't realize that. They're not really doing anything to control that flood. I know in Boulder they have alot of flood control things going but I haven't heard of anything here. I guess Lafayette is kind of up-- (Lucille) Yes, we're uphill but all along the creek ---- there was pianos floating down the creek and a ----. It's hard to believe because it doesn't seem that low. Yeah, it doesn't because we haven't had a flood like that in so long. Okay, that is Coal Creek? Well the flood in 64,65 or 66, somewhere in there, where it flooded all out up in the canyon I know. Did it flood here too? Maybe by the time it got here it was ----. (Lucille) I think by the time it got here it was a ----- (Merwin) I think the water came down through here but it wasn't anything like they had ----- Like it had been. (Merwin) It didn't wash the bridge out down here or down here east on baseline it didn't do anything to that bridge although the water was high. I think there was was one bridge out there where Hamilton lives, that did go out there, but that's the only one I remember going out. (Lucille) At that time? (Merwin) Yes.



Well what were the conditions that created the flood where it went all the way to Centaurus. (Lucille) We had had hard rain, in fact, cloud bursts and it just came so fast that it -----  
Too much at once. Yes, huh, hun too much at once.

What do you know about the police department, the sheriff?

(Merwin) We used to have a guy here, I can't remember his name but they used to ---- Waxham----- (Lucille) Waxham, huh, huh.  
Waxham? (Merwin) He was practically the police department, I guess. Well there was a town ----. (Lucille) We had town police but he was the ----- (Merwin) He was the highway patrol. He rode a motorcycle all the time. But the police department. There just wasn't too much of it. (Lucille) No, we always just had one night ----. (Merwin) One night cop. (Lucille) One night policeman and one during the day. There wasn't alot of crime then.  
(Lucille) No. If you could ever interview John Lewis. He remembers alot about the police department. (Merwin) He remembers alot about other things too. (Lucille) He's just our age. He remembers-- well he was kind of a kid about town late at night and we just love to hear him tell about some of the things. He lives here in town.  
(Lucille) I can remember, not vivedly, but just hearing the folks tell about tieing the night cop up or the night policeman and there was a basement stairway on the bank corner that went down below the bank and they tied him and left him down there in the stairway. I think his name was Doves. He was our night police at that time. He was a little bit of a fellow, if I remember right. But they robbed the bank and got away with the money. Oh, that's when they robbed the bank. That's one time the bank was robbed. I think it was more than once. Did they get away every time they robbed it? Yes, I believe they did. Who were those --- well you wouldn't know but they had to be from somewhere else. They weren't local.  
(Lucille) Yes. Right. I don't think so. Was that during prohibition? I know that's when alot of your bank --- Bonnie and Clyde and some of the bigger names were ----- Prohibition, they hit the small town banks.

(Merwin) That was a pretty good size fire when that bank burned.  
(Lucille) At that time it had been turned into an antique store, it was full of antiques. Oh. (Merwin) And clothing. (Lucille) Yeah. (Merwin) They had clothing just piled up in piles in there.

(Merwin) We also had an elevator down, well it would be about, I'm trying to think exactly where that track used to go through there. Anyway there was a grain elevator there that they used to ship grain out all the time but we woke up one night and the whole southern sky was lit up and ----- (Lucille) Clear down southeast of here. In town. (Merwin) It was right on the highway. (Lucille) Yeah, that's right. (Merwin) It was right along in there. It would be just this side of where the greenhouse is now. There used to be a railroad track go through there from Louisville to Lafayette and they had the grain elevator there and somewhere or another during the night it caught on fire and burnt clear down. Well it wasn't as big a fire as the school house but a ---.

(Lucille) No, but it was a big fire. Speaking of the railroad track between Lafayette and Louisville, my mother used to put me on the train here in Lafayette and my grandmother would meet me over in Louisville. When I was just a little girl. There was no fare or anything. The folks knew the conductor. They knew the engineer. They lived here in town. They knew the depot agent and, you know, they didn't think anything of putting a little child on the train. What kind of a train was it? Steam train. Did it just go from Louisville to Lafayette and back or did it go -----?

(Lucille) That one did, I believe, from Louisville to Lafayette.

(Merwin) Yeah, there's one that did but a ----- . (Lucille) Maybe it went to Erie too, I can't remember but I know ----. Kind of like a local bus would be. Where was the depot? (Lucille) The depot was, the only one I can remember real clearly is the one down here. Down on Simpson Street. But when I was a little girl it was over in another area at that time. I think they had two depots if I remember right. (Merwin) Seems like to me that one depot was right down there close to where Agnes lives. (Lucille) Yes, it was in that area. (Merwin) What is that street that goes in front of Agnes' house? Cannon and a --- I was thinking the other way. (Lucille) You know I've lived in this town so long that I used to say well they live down by so and so and I didn't have to remember the street name. Now they've moved. It's different.

Well, is there anything else that you remember about Lafayette or anything else that I could put on the record? (Lucille) Probably think of alot things when we get back home. Yeah. Right now I can't.

How about the future of Lafayette? What do you think about the way things are moving, growing? (Merwin) I think they're improving all the time. I mean, used to be years ago there was always somebody fighting, progress you know, and it was slow moving and I still think that's what has kept Lafayette down to where it's at now because it isn't anything like Louisville over here, see. The group of people that they have up there in the City Hall now, I think, are really doing a good job and I think if we can keep good people in there like that that Lafayette is going to improve, but it's got a long ways to go to catch up with some of the other towns around here that have been working on it all the time but I guess you can say that, I don't know who to blame it onto. Anyway they just held Lafayette back and there just didn't seem to be any progress. No industry or anything.