

This is Fred Stones and I'm talking to Laura Starkey here at Starkey Plumbing and Heating Company on February 25, 1986. This is part of a continuing program by the City Library here to talk to the people that remembers the things that happened a long time ago here in the city. Laura, I want to thank you for letting us talk to you and we hope that this will be as pleasant for you as it is for everybody else that we talk to.

Laura, were you born here in Lafayette? No. Where were you born? In Clinton, Mo. How old were you when you came to Lafayette? I was 7 years old. Who was your parents? Jim and Lula Wilson and today is my dad's birthday. Today, how old would he have been? He would have been 99 years old. Where was he born? He was born in Sedalia, Mo. So most of your family did come from Missouri? What was your mother's name before she was married? Lula Cawell. Lula Cawell. She predeceased your father, did she not? Yes. What year did she pass away? 1975. And when did your dad die? 1978. How old was he when he passed away? He was 92. Let's talk a little bit, before we get into your life, let's talk a little bit about your folks because your dad was here, or course as long as you were, and he was familiar to a lot of people in town. Tell me about his garden. Well my dad he was the -- he called himself the corn king. He grew so much nice corn and tomatoes and he had a little truck garden up here at his home and he just enjoyed all of that after he retired from the mines. How many years did he have this garden? We were in our home up here 55 years and he raised his garden, well he raised gardens all the time, even in the mining days. Because he wanted to have something to do during the summer when the mines weren't working. He worked in the mines then, when he first came here? Yes. Okay, and he raised corn and tomatoes? When did he start selling his produce? About 15 years before he passed away. Okay. He had special customers that he served? Yes sir, he sure did. I remember that and he did raise good corn I'll tell you that. How big a place did he have, how big a patch did he have? He grew five lots later in life. Earlier in his life growing it there, my dad owned a lot of property up in that end of town and he gradually sold it till he ended up with about five lots which he had his truck gardening on. What would that be in acres, have you any idea? No I don't. An acre or an acre and a half, something like? Something like that. How did he water his garden? With his own well. With his own well on the property? It's on there yet today. The property is now being used for what? The lots belong to me and the well is on the lots and today -- well last year we had what we called Wilson Community Gardens and this year they're going to do it again. Good. How many people raised gardens out there last year. I think Bill told me around 20. Was there that many? He had quite a lot of them. Well that's great. And they watered it out of the well? Out of the well. Did they have pretty good yields down there? Oh yes. Good and they're going to do it again this year? Yes, they're planning on it. Good that's great because when you go by there you can see where some of them have been you know and I, of course I remember your dad down there with his garden. He loved that garden.

What mines did your dad work in? Do you remember? He worked in the old Standard Mine and the Columbine. They were the only two mines he worked in. Were you here during the strike? Yes. The 1910 strike? No, he was here during the 19 -- what was it '27 strike? The time when a lot of them got killed over at the Columbine. I don't know what year that was. Was it '27? I don't remember just what year it was but that wasn't the 1910 strike. Oh no we weren't here. I wasn't even here yet. Okay, and he worked in the Standard and the Columbine? Yes. Did he load coal, was that what he did? Yes, he loaded coal. By hand? Yes. Him and Burt Pierson worked together. Him and Burt Pierson. They were buddies. And Burt is still alive? Burt is still alive. He could tell you a lot about my dad. Well somebody has already talked to Burt. I don't know what that conversation was. You see they've had people do this before you know for a lot of people and now they're

picking it up and talking to the rest of the people that they've got, see, but I'm sure that Burt has already been contacted and Bob Johnson down here. These are the older people that were here in town.

Where did you live when you came to Lafayette? Our first home in Lafayette was down on East Emma around about close to Autrey St. where Autry is now today. Okay. You say your dad had alot of property here. Can you remember about how much property? His ground only and his one home. All of the block up around where some of those houses are built today, my dad had all of that for quite awhile. He used to have a little chicken place across from his house right now, he owned that lot. Do you know what those lots were selling for back in those days? Around \$750. Just for the lot. For a 50 by 125 foot lot? Probably cheaper than that yet because later on when he sold some of them all he got was \$750. Okay.

Did you go to school here in Lafayette? All my school years. All of your school years. Which school did you start out in? In the old school that burned. In the old wooden school. The old wooden school. Can you tell me something about that school? Well they were happy school days I know. I was in the second, I said all my years but I was in the second grade when I started school here and I had all my schooling here and graduated here out of the Middle School. That's where I graduated. That was the high school then? That was the high school then. I had all my days of schooling right there in the old building. Who were some of your teachers? McCready was the superintendent, that's a long time to think about. Ray Burt's wife, Edie McCaslin was one of my teachers and Abby Nelson's wife was one of my teachers, Carrie Nelson; Dr. Hurt's wife, Miranda; there were alot of them. Can you remember any of the kids you went to school with? Oh yes I went to school with Clancey Waneka, Iva Whipple, Clara O'Donnel, all of us, Lena Worley. How many were in your graduating class? I think 17. Can you remember some of those? There was Clancey Waneka, Clara O'Donnel, Clyde Harris, Casey O'Donnel, Lena Worley, I'm trying to think of some more. It's going back aways, see that's some of these people are still alive and some of them aren't. Some of them are gone. With these different tapes that we get, we get an interlocking of names you see so that can eventually pull it altogether. Do you remember when they built the high school? Was it 1926? We graduated out of there. We was one of the first, I didn't, I graduated later on but I think 1926 or '29, something like that. That's when the original high school was built. You didn't go to school when Mr. Angevine was here? No. He came after you had graduated.

Who did you marry? I married Lewis Starkey from Erie. And when was that? 1934. Where were you married? In Wyoming. What town? In Larimie, Wyoming. At Larimie, Wyoming. Okay, what business was Lewis in? At the time we were married he was working in the mines. How long did he work in the mines? About a year or two after we were married then he became involved with the City of Lafayette. What did he do for the city at that time? He was really the first one that run the filter plant on Baseline Road. He operated the water and took care of the roads, he policed the town and for many years he did that. Okay. What was his title? Did he have a title of any kind? When he worked for the city? Yes. I don't remember what title they did give him. He just did about everything. He did everything for the city, he run the grader on the old streets when they were gravel streets and he took care of all the water that came in town and then as I say, in the evenings he would police the town and then, of course, all times he could have been called for police work. Was there any other policemen besides him? Bill Gallagher used to help him a lot. There was just the two of them in town. Just the two of them in town. They took care of the whole town. They took care of the whole town. How long did he work at that job? Oh lets see. He worked with the City of

Lafayette until 1952 when he decided he wanted his own business in plumbing and we built our store here in 1952. That's this building we're in now? What is the address here? 307 South Public Road. And where do you live here in town? 107 East Chester. How long have you lived in that house? All of my married life but 7 years. Oh my gosh. You've lived there quite a long time. Oh yes. We would have had our 50 year anniversary but he didn't live long enough. What year did Lewis pass away? 1977. Was Louie ever on the city council? No, not on the council, no. Not on the council. He worked for the city but he was never on the council. He was never one of the officials of the city? Okay. Do you mind telling me what his salary was at that time? For all that work. \$125 a month. And he was on call practically 24 hours a day. 24 hours a day. Many nights he would get a call.

Now about your plumbing business here. How did that go? It went beautiful. After he became a plumber and he was interested in it we built our new building right here and he loved plumbing, that was his --- after he got into that he was really happy. Did he ever have anybody help him besides you? Oh yes, at one time we employed 8 people. Who did you have working for you? Can you name them? At one time, Fred Miller, Albert Porta of Louisville, Max Wright of Broomfield, Dave Starkey, Guido Gaz worked for him, I just can't think of anymore right now. Was Lewis instrumental in getting the sewer system in Lafayette? Yes. How long did that take? To get the sewer? To get the sewer into the town. From the time they started talking about it, how long did it take until they started work on it? Well the city council, I think, that's something I can't remember, what years the sewer did come in. Okay. But it came in while he was still working for the city and he helped later on.

Do you remember what year they paved the streets in Lafayette? No I don't. I should remember but I just can't. Well I don't remember for sure either, it was before 1950 but I don't remember the exact date. We had to pave our own streets, I know and pay for them, I know that. Yes, they had a, what do they call it, a program where everybody, well the whole town had to pay so much for the streets that went in front of their house and then partially up to the corner, you know. Well I would say those streets were paved around about 1950 maybe or '51 somewhere along in there. Our front part cost \$450, we paid, and then for our store out here we paid \$250. Maybe it was later than that because our store did cost us something. Okay, then how long did you have to pay that? We could have paid it off in 5 years, but we paid it off sooner. You could pay it at anytime but you had at least 5 years to pay it?

What was the town like before the sewer came in here? What did they use to take care of the sewer? Oh, cesspools and septic systems. Can you describe those to me? We had to dig our own cesspools in our own yards which some of them was as deep as a well. The one I have at my home is still there. Then the greasetraps were put off of the sink wastes to catch all the grease or anything that might go through and it was taken care of before it dropped into the cesspools. Why did they want the grease out of the cesspools? Well because grease will deteriorate the bacteria that's in the cesspool. Does it have any ---? And it will fill the cesspools up. It plugs them up in otherwords? Yes, yes. Of course Mr. Starkey was involved in this quite heavily I'm sure and how long would a grease trap usually last before it had to have something done to it? Well it would depend on the family. If they were a large family that had a lot of dishwashing or washing of vegetables or anything, sometimes he'd have to clean them out in a year or so and sometimes you'd never clean them depending on yourself. Depending on the people and how --- how you treat things. Yeah, okay.

As I remember you and Lewis both belonged to the Odd Fellows Lodge. You was a Rebecca and he was in the Odd Fellow Lodge. Yes. And also he was in the Masonic Lodge. Yes. Were you in the Eastern Star? Yes. Can you tell me a little bit about what the Odd Fellows were doing at that time and the Rebecca? Well at one time the Odd Fellow and Rebecca Lodge was a very large fraternal organization in this town. They owned the old building that has been redone across from the Senior Citizens, they owned that. In the earlier days there was an Odd Fellow Hall on Simpson Street, across from Cliff Alderson's store. It burnt, everything burnt down that's when they bought this other building and they owned that for many years till they sold it. Then the Odd Fellow Lodge finally is no more in Lafayette but we Rebeccas are and we still - I'm still a good Rebecca. Do you still meet? We meet in the Masonic Temple. Okay, where is the Masonic Temple in Lafayette? 701 West Baseline Road. Okay, do you remember when that was built? In the 1970's. It was built in the early part of the 1970's, maybe the late '69s. Tell me who was in the Rebecca Lodge when you were initiated into the lodge? Can you remember some of the ladies that were in there? Beedy Jensen, Inez Rossiter, Emma Brown, Elizabeth Brown, they were the older ladies. That's what I want. That's what you want? We had two Elizabeth Browns, Caroline Moon, that's about - course there were alot of those older ladies, they aren't here anymore they've all passed away. Eliza Pierson was in. What year did you join the Rebeccas? 1934. So you've got a 50 year pin? Should have but I don't want one. Okay, but you've been in over 50 years? Yes, over 50 years. When did you join the Eastern Star? In 1946. Well that's been 40 years that you've been in Eastern Star. Was there about the same ladies in Eastern Star that there was in the Rebeccas? No. Do you remember some of the Eastern Star ladies? That were in when I was? Ray Burt's wife, Edie Burt initiated me and there was Shirley Burks, it's hard to remember who all was there, if I had a book I'd know who they were. That's okay. Both of these lodges are still meeting, both the Rebeccas and the Eastern Star? Yes, oh yes. Of course the Masonic Lodge is still meeting? Still meeting, they own the temple building. Okay. The Odd Fellows more or less disbanded, is that what you ----? Oh yes, we had to. After Louie passed away and Henry Mathias, a few of the old timers, they just couldn't get no attendance so they went to Boulder and consolidated with them. Do you remember who some of the older members were of the Odd Fellows? All the Nordstrom boys out here, there was Pete and Andy, Gus Nordstrom and then Gus Waneka he was a very good Odd Fellow, Albert Williams, oh there was just quite a few of them. The Kneebones, all of the Kneebones, Joe, John and ---. About how many people belonged to the lodge at that time when it was really active? When it was really active there was around 200 Rebeccas and Odd Fellows. Is that right? And they ended up, we only have 31 right now in the Rebeccas and the Odd Fellows are no more.

You are operating the store here by yourself now? Yes. How long have you operated the store by yourself? Since Louie passed away in 1977. So that's almost 10 years. 8 years. It's coming up 9 years then? Well it will be 9 in November. Can you tell me some of your experiences that you've had here in the store? I love it, it's passed time for me, I love to be here, I like to help people, I like to just carry on the business, it means alot to me. I get a chance to meet our people in Lafayette and I do enjoy people. About how many people do you have a day come in here as an average? Anymore, lately, I've had an average maybe of just 10. Do people do as much of their own work now as they used to? They do more. They do more now? Because they wages are so high. So you more or less cater to the home trade, the do-it-yourself trade? Just supplies only. I don't do no more service.

If I remember right, you used to take quite a few trips, you and Louie? We sure did. Where all have you been? Oh I've been to Hawaii three times, we've been in the Bahama Islands, we've been all over the United States and Canada, Mexico, and since he passed away I've been to the Holy Land, course you know that, two times and I've been to Alaska, to Hawaii again. We loved traveling. We just traveled as much as we could. Tell me why did you go to the Holy Land twice? I was interested in, the second time seeing what I had missed the first time. Why did you miss it the first time? Well you remember my sister got hurt and I didn't get to see too much of that. What happened to her on that trip. She fell down some stairs when we were coming from lunch upstairs in a restaurant. What kind of stairs were they? They were cement. Okay, as I remember she was pretty well banged up. Yes. She still is bothered. Is she, from that trip? How long were you away at that time she was in this bad shape before you got home? I think it was almost a three week trip we took. She got hurt, oh we'd only been out about a week. So it was about two weeks. About two weeks. You were pretty well tied down then? Yes. So then you went back -- oh yes --- to see what you had missed? Did you take essentially the same trip that we took the first time? Mostly, there were a few different places but I enjoyed the second trip very much. Very interesting and I did enjoy it. Seen things I sort of missed on the first trip. You did go to Egypt the second time? Yes. And to Jordan again? And then to Jerusalem? Tell me a little bit about Jerusalem. What was your impression of Jerusalem? I thought it was a very nice place, I really did. Sometimes we do wonder if the ideas they have there are real. Well, now Israel, I do like the State of Israel, I think it is a beautiful state and the second time Jordan was much better too. I did enjoy it alot. Did you go to Petra the second time? The rest of them went but I didn't go on that trip. Because you had seen that before hadn't you? Yes. Some of these second trips I didn't go on. Did you go to Greece on the second trip? We stopped in Athens. How many were on that trip with you? The last time? There was 48 I believe. Helen Herman went with me, she was my partner. Was there anybody else from Lafayette that went on the trip? No, not very many. The Kempers, Helen and I, I think there was only seven of us the last time from Lafayette. There were some from Louisville, Vi Owens and her sister, a few of them. On your trip to Alaska, how did you go on your trip to Alaska? The Inward Cruise. You took a cruise up there and went on the Inward Passage up there? Tell me a little bit about that trip? It was beautiful. It was one of the most beautiful trips I've ever been on. Course I like cruising. If I go again, it will be cruising. I don't like a bus, in and out and all that. It was a beautiful trip to Alaska. We were gone quite awhile. It was just a beautiful trip. Well I've never thought of the Land of the Midnight Sun but it is amazing... What did you think of the glaciers up there? I thought they were gorgeous, they were just unbelievable. I really enjoyed the Alaskan trip. I'd like to take another one. While you were traveling around the United States, how did you travel around the different states? Always by car. In your own car? Did you ever have a trailer or camper? No. You traveled just by car? Just by car.

Let's go back now a little bit and talk about when you first came to Lafayette. You were only seven years old. What was the town like at that time? Oh it was a beautiful little town. There was only about 1400 people at that time. We all knew each other, we were happy kids together, we used to have play, make our own enjoyment. Just good friendly people. Okay. Can you remember some of the businesses that were in town at that time? Well the old Dow Drug Store was on the corner where Aldersons is today. The post office was next to that. There was Charlie Scholes bakery and the Company Store where the Odd Fellows Hall is, there was a bank on the corner which went broke, then across the way we had several grocery stores which were very nice. I can remember the Bermont Store. You see

I've been here a long time. Is that the store you traded with, the Bermont Store? Yes. Tell me a little bit about that store. Oh it was an old time store, he just sold everything in there. All kinds of mining clothes, mining buckets, the carbide lights, coal stoves that were in the home, he sold groceries. Did he have dry goods in there? Yeah he had some dry goods. Mining clothes and things like that. Who helped him, who worked in the store with him? It was called Bermonts and I can't think of the other name right now. It was called Vandenberg's. Vandenberg. Bermont and Vandenberg. Vandenberg and Bermont. How long was Vandenberg with Bermont? Oh I don't remember, I think he probably - when I was a small child, course that was until I was about 20 years old. There was a lot of the business deals I don't remember. Do you remember when Mr. Cundall went to work for Mr. Bermont? He was in there when I was still a small girl. So he was there a lot of years. He was there a lot of years. Now you mentioned the bank and the fact that it failed and gone broke. At one time it was robbed too, do you have any impressions or remember anything about it? I don't remember it at all. You don't remember it at all? What happened to the city when the bank went broke? Well we just had to continue on the best way we could. Course my father, we came from a poor family and it didn't hurt us very much cause he was never able to have any money much. Was the people that had money in the bank, did they recover any of it? No I don't think that they recovered but very little of it, maybe some but not much. That was right on the corner there across from the Senior Center? Yes. Was there a Blacksmith's shop in town? Yes. Where was it? It was where the old building back of the Senior Citizens where the - Sister Carmen has something to do with that old building, there was a blacksmith's shop there. Okay. Who ran that shop? Dan Jones. Do you remember when the automobile first started here in Lafayette? Well there was automobiles ever since I can remember. When you remember, but what I'm trying to get to, how were the automobiles then compared to today? Well my dad owned a little old Model T Ford and we used to - well it was quite a thing the Model T Ford. If you owned one you really thought you had something. And how much did that cost, do you remember? I don't remember what my dad paid for it. Okay. What was your first automobile, yours and Lewis'? We had this little Chevrolet when we got married, it was a 1933 and we got it in 1934. Where did you buy that? He bought it in Longmont. How long did you have that car? We had it oh quite a long time because we just couldn't afford to own anything else. Okay, do you remember how much that cost? \$640. For a brand new car. For a brand new car. Was it a two door or a four door? It was a two door and it had a little, we always called it a little rumble seat in the back. It was like a little carrier.

You came to Lafayette when you were about seven years old? Yes. And you said you had to make your own enjoyment, your own entertainment, what did you do for entertainment? As young people? As young people. Children to start with. Children. Oh we used to play kick the can, run sheep run and we did a lot of hop scotch. Well we used to have a lot of little church parties that we'd go to which were very nice at the old Methodist Church that used to be down there. Course we all lived in that neighborhood. As you grew older then how did your enjoyment or your entertainment change? Well we had a nice dance hall, it was in the old Union Hall that used to be on Simpson Street and we'd have dances and then our lodges would have a lot of social activities. We used to parties and socials and the men used to play cards a lot. They played pool. Where was the pool halls? They had some pool tables in the old Odd Fellow Hall at one time. Now I don't know where anymore of them - I don't know anymore where they were at but they used to like to go and play

pool. Did you ever bowl down in the bottom of the old Odd Fellow Hall? I never did but the men did. There were two bowling lanes down there. I wondered if it was a real popular place to be or to go. Yeah the men used to like to bowl but I never did. There was a confectionery of some kind underneath the bank too, wasn't there? I don't remember that. As you went down through into the bowling alley -- I don't remember that. When you got older, back in the '40s, what was your entertainment then? The '40s and the '50s. Before the time of the television. Well, as I say, we were very much involved with lodge work and we used to go to a lot of their entertainment, then during the '40s and the '50s was when Louie and I started traveling a lot, of course I was married at that time and he was working for the city and we got involved with the city and which to me the city was very nice. He loved to work for the city.

Back in 1941 when the war started, World War II, tell me what changes it made in the city. Oh dear, we were on gas rations, I can remember that because all we could have was a few stamps to buy some gas now and then. We were on food stamps, there was a lot of food that was restricted. Anything else that you can remember? I don't remember much more. What about tires? Tires, oh you couldn't hardly get tires at that time, no way. Shoes? Shoes. They were restricted too, they were rationed too, weren't they? Where was the ration board here in Lafayette? Was it the City Hall? It was up in the middle building up there, the Vocational Building, you know that the WPA built, the Vocational Building, they had the shop in one area and the girl's Home Economic in the other area. There was a hallway in between. Oh, okay. Yeah that's right since you talked about it, I remember. Who was in the ration office? Do you remember? No I don't. Well it was Carrie Nelson, she worked there for a long time. For most of the time during the war it was Carrie Nelson. Did you have any particular activity during the war as part of the war effort, let's put it that way? I helped with the - I have a picture of myself and a few of us, I could never give blood because I wasn't - I didn't weigh enough so I helped other ways. We fixed the bandages and splints and things like that we used to work on. Do you remember the blackouts we used to have? Yes, I remember those blackouts. Can you tell me what used to happen then? On the blackouts, I just remember them I can't tell what all happened. Did Louie have any part in the war? No, nothing only just working for the city, that's all. He wasn't in the Army or anything? No he couldn't be on account of his heart condition.

How has the town changed since you were little and was growing up in Lafayette? Oh, it has really changed. In fact, it's hard to get used to Lafayette today from the town that I knew when I was growing up. It's not very friendly anymore. I still love it, I still love the City of Lafayette and I always will. It's my home but it has changed an awful lot. There's a lot of new businesses in now, the old businesses are all gone. In fact I believe there is only four of us that are the original owners of the businesses that have been in Lafayette. I believe there are only four of us left. Besides you, who are the other three? I believe Wally Prather, he still owns his own business; Iva Whipple still has her own shop, and the Lafayette Florist and myself. Now I don't remember if there is others that still have their own original business and never sold. I can't think of any myself. I just can't. All four of you go back a long ways, all four of those businesses. Tell me a little bit about - you mentioned the Lafayette Florist - what did it look like when they bought it? It was just a little fruit stand, in fact they came here and they started out in a fruit stand and now they have ex-

panded it, it is just beautiful today. And who runs that? I think their mother still owns her share of it, that's why I imagine the original owner - a Gene is still there and now I think his sister, Ann, manages it. Is it her or is it her son or some younger person in there. I don't know which one it is. I don't know either. It's still in the Yoshihara family. It's in the Yoshihara family and I think Mrs. Yoshihara still owns it, I believe she does. She's actively engaged down there too. Yes she is. Like you are here. Like I am here.

There was a picture show in town here at one time, can you tell me a little bit about that? Yeah that was fun days. The picture show was where the Blue Mountain Plumbing is today. We used to be able to take a quarter when I was a kid, we'd have a sack of popcorn and go to the show and have, oh maybe a few jawbreakers or something like that for a quarter and it was fun days and we had a lot of good shows in there until it burnt down. It did burn? It did burn down.

You mentioned several churches here in town, can you tell me something about the church situation in Lafayette? Back in the '20s:³ The Catholic Church was up here on the corner, in the 100 block of West Cannon. That's the only one I remember where it is where the mortuary was. Then we had the Methodist Church, we had the Community Church where the old library was and just moved out, that used to be the Community Church and the Baptist Church, it's around 70 to 75 years old, and I think that's about all the churches we had that I can remember. Most of those all go back all that time, don't they? Yes they do. With the exception of the Community Church that was finally sold to the Lafayette Library Board to make the library. Yes. I don't know what they're going to do with it now. I still think it should be left as a historical marker for Lafayette. Who built that church, do you remember? The Catholic Church, course they built a new church-- Yes, they did -- and the Methodist Church, the old Methodist Church, it burned and then they built the other church. Yes, they built the new church but they have repaired the old Methodist Church and it's home owned by, I don't know who owns it now, they have a home there. That's George Sleppy. That's right, George Sleppy.

How was the economy of the town before the depression of 1929? The economy was pretty good, we had a lot of nice businesses down on Simpson Street. We had a lot of coal mines that were working good at that time. In fact the old Simpson Mine down on the end here employed a lot of people and the economy was very good for a small little city. Very good, till the depression came in. Tell me a little bit about what happened during the depression. Oh, we had to conserve on a lot of things. Well, the depression was just terrible days. Sometimes we don't even like to talk about the depression days but they were bad. They were part of our heritage, part of our history. Yes. What did it do to the mining industry? It slowed them down. The depression. Okay, did any of the businesses in town have to close up because of the depression? I really don't remember. You don't remember if any of the businesses had to close because of the depression? I don't remember that. How did people that didn't have work, how did they continue to live at that time? We didn't live very good. I remember during depression days we - well just Louie and I, for instance, the mines weren't working and we were just young married kids we couldn't even pay \$12 a month for rent and many times we would have probably gone hungry, if my dad hadn't carried food down to us and we lived in Harry Westbrook's house and we couldn't even pay \$12 a month rent. So they were very bad days. How long did that last? Oh, I forget when the depression days were over, along about '36 or '37, am I right? I think the depression has made a lot of good people out of us that went through it and seen it. I really do because we learned to love people more during the depression and

help alot and there was many times, like I said, we could have gone hungry if we hadn't had good friends and good folks that help each other. I don't know about today if there were a depression to come, probably everyone would just think of themselves. Let's pursue that just a little bit. In today's type of economy with you being in business the way you are, what is your impression of what would happen? If there were a depression today? If there were another depression. Well to tell you the truth, I think we're - I think the economy right now is in very bad shape. I really do. In my business I notice it alot. There would be alot of businesses go broke. That's the way with me here, if I didn't stay here and do this myself it couldn't exist. There isn't enough money, the wages are awfully high and I don't believe that alot of our people today could cope with a depression. I really don't. With you being here, what would happen to the town if you closed this building and not run your plumbing shop? They would carry on, in fact sometimes I think alot of people - the people in Lafayette could care less whether this store is here or not. They still have to have plumbing things, don't they come here to get it? Oh you bet, I have alot of good people that comes here. I just have a little sore spot right now for the City of Lafayette council. I'm sorry. But there's a little sore spot there that they don't want to help towards the old Lafayette because I'm on the restoration.

Tell me a little bit about this restoration committee, what are their aims and what are they planning on doing? Well they plan on revitalizing old Lafayette as much as they can. Now by old Lafayette, tell me what you mean by old Lafayette. Well I think they consider all of us people on Public Road, Baseline and Simpson where the business originally was. Is this just for business restoration or is it for total restoration? I think they want total. Total. What are their plans for Simpson Street? Well they would like to - I think they're looking for a loan - I haven't attended a few of their meetings lately because I just wasn't able to go. But they're looking for some money, I think, so that it can be borrowed to take care of your business to update it and get it looking better. Compared to the business that used to be on Simpson Street, what shape is the business district in now on Simpson Street? It's in sad shape, as far as I'm concerned. Marv is leaving now. There won't be any grocery stores down there, there's just nothing down on Simpson Street right now. And it used to be a thriving ---. Oh, it used to be a beautiful place. Just lots of little businesses, everything, but there's nothing there now in my estimation, what is there there? That big beautiful building that was redone, where the Odd Fellows Hall was, there's nothing much in there I don't believe.

Tell me what was your object in letting the Chamber of Commerce have the property next to you here? Well, it was always a detriment in renting. I've always been good to people, my rent has been cheap and if they come crying around and don't have the money I let them get by. So the last renter I had in there I let him get by six months without paying any rent, very cheap at that, he promised me the rent on Saturday and Sunday morning he was gone. I've never seen him since. So I got very discouraged, I had some of the Chamber of Commerce come to me and ask me if I would consider selling that place on the corner. I said no I won't but after I slept on it for awhile, I called some of them down and I agreed to let them have this place mostly as a memorial to Louie because he had done alot for this city and I knew of no better opportunity than to have a memorial for him or a better

organization than the Chamber of Commerce. It is business and I've been in business, Louie was, so it ----. They've made a nice building out of it. It's a beautiful building and I'm very proud of it. I'm just so proud. And it was practically nothing when they got that but I am very proud of it. Do you belong to the Chamber of Commerce? No I don't belong to the Chamber of Commerce. I used to but I don't anymore. I'm looking at a plaque here on your wall that says "The Starkey Memorial Park". Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Well it's the ground up here where my a --- where they have their community garden now and the city thought they would like to have that as a little memorial park in memory and I was going to have it dedicated to the city but I don't know now just what I will do with that. That was the plans, that's why that's on there. It will be dedicated as a memorial park but since I have got this on the corner for Louie it will probably be in my dad's name and it will be a free dedication someday, a free park. But you do intend to keep that open as a park then? Oh yes, yes I do. It will be a memorial park, I hope, someday for my dad. Okay. That's great. It will never be sold. That's a nice addition to the town too. Sure, and I think this one on the corner is a very good addition. Very nice.

How many of the old people that you used to know are still here in Lafayette? Can you recall any of them that are still around? Not very many of the old ones. You're talking about the older folks. The people that have been here as long as you've been. Course there's alot of them older than me. Well they were here when you came, that you remember being here when you came, that's lived here all their lives. Well there's a -- well alot of them have come since and they're older people now of course. Well, Elizabeth Brown up here on Oak Street, she's been here a long time, she's a great friend of mine and well there's, I don't know if you consider us old or not, there's the Wanekas, Clara O'Donnell, Maxine Beasley, we've all been here for a long time and the older people, older than me, most of them are all gone, --- in other words we're the older generation? Yes, we're the ones, yeah, as far as I can remember, now if I could stop and think there's probably alot of the older ones.

Can you think of anything else that we should talk about, about the city? Well it's hard to get used to the new ways of the city. I like it, I'm glad to see it increasing, I'm glad to see it becoming a nice city. Do you think it will continue to grow? Well it will continue to grow, I hope, but sometimes I have a doubt. A lot of the new shopping center - now I don't think the new one down here is filled yet, the Coal Creek, I don't think it is. I was not in favor of moving the City Hall where it is at now. I would have liked to have seen the City Hall stay more in the center of town. They didn't need to have to continue in the old building, I think it was put on the wrong spot. I agree with you, by the way. I'm glad someone agrees with me because I hate to say things. Well you know everybody's entitled to the way they feel and I feel just like you do, I think that if they wanted to keep the City Hall here they could have found some way to keep it here. I absolutely agree.