

I'm Jim Webber and I live in Canon City, Colorado now. When did you live in Lafayette? Well, we lived here in 1922 is when we had our big fire and then that's when we left then for a few years and then came back and built this new building across the street here and I don't know when it was built - it was when I was still small. About what year do you think it might have been? Probably about '29. And that's what's now the East Side Apartments; but what was it called then? It was the Webber Garage then; they had a car agency there. Used to sell Studebakers. Before it was a garage, it used to be a livery stable. It had a fire. Couple of different times, they had a fire, leveled that property out, way back - I don't know, my granddad was in the surrey business. And what was his name? Jim Webber. I met an old fellow yesterday by the name of Charlie - he said he rented a buggy to take his girl out and he got stuck out here in the middle of the street and had to leave the buggy there. He rented it from my granddad.

Have you talked to Bill Moon that lives next door? No, I haven't seen Bill. He's 93 now and he remembers so much and it would be fun for you to talk with him. I'm sure he'd know all about the situation. I'll have to see if I can't take a few minutes, at least.

How long did your father have the business there? I just can't tell you. You mean my dad, himself? Yes, the garage. I don't know when we left the last time. I think it was probably during the depression years, though. It was so hard to make things go; it was probably during the depression. Yes. It was hard times for everybody around here during the coal days. Your folks were never involved in the coal mines, though? Only in hauling coal and they used to do a lot of that. My dad, as a little boy, used to haul coal. He came from a family of five boys and they didn't have time to go to school much because they had to work out hauling something, coal or working on the roads. Just as little boys they used to do that.

My husband's family all were great Studebaker lovers so when you said they had a Studebaker garage, I wondered if they lived at Serene and came over here to buy their cars. I remember the Studebakers in the showroom there with little square lamps on the front and on the side. I still remember that. I have some bad memories, though, of the fire we had. We lived up above that on Christmas morning, 1922, when that fire - it was about 4:00 in the morning and this fella came down to see how much gas he had in his gas tank before he went off to work at the mine and he got that lamp close to the fumes and it blew up. That's what caused the fire. My mother, brother and I were asleep upstairs. My dad came up and carried us all out of there and we just did get out of there and we just did get out because there was an oil room under the stairway and it was all on fire. It was terrific heat. The last I remember was that whole front of the building was burning and we left. That's quite an experience. I've had a fear of fire ever since that time, though it happened many years ago.

Do you keep in touch with any of the people that you knew when you lived here at all or is that too many years in between?

Well, I used to know so many but so many are gone. I remember the Schofields real well. Well, there's Maude Schofield. Yeah, Maude's still here. Kelly, was, I loved him. He was a doll. I shouldn't call a man a doll, but he was a beautiful person. He really was. I was telling my wife yesterday about riding on the wagon with him with load of grain, bringing it in from the farm to the mill here in town, as a boy. Well, just a couple of days before he died, his wife was at the house, Maudie was, and he came for her and he was such a gentleman, you just always enjoyed seeing them together; he was so nice to her always. They were some of my folks best friends.

Who are some of the other people that you knew here? My folks and Wanekas used to be real good friends as young people, they used to go around together. And of course I didn't know them too well. My folks are both passed away but before they did, the last few years, we'd take them out to visit the Wanekas. They were some of their real good friends.

Did your father ever serve on the town board or anything like that? I don't recall; back in those days I can't remember too much because I was only four years old when we left. So I don't recall too much of that.

Do you have any pictures of Lafayette that your father had? Yes, I have a few showing the old trucks. Those old trucks had the hard rubber tires on them; they didn't have tires like we have now. The old trucks were loaded with different things. One had a big boiler from one of the mines on it; they were moving it to another location. And another, I think, had a big load of furniture. So they were in the hauling business. Some of the pictures are around the old building there. I would be more than glad to pay to have copies made off of them. If you'd have them made I'll pay you for them or if you trust me to have them while --. Sure, all right; I'll be glad to do it. We're trying to get history together. And while we're still living it, so to speak; two years ago we had 19 people over 90 years of age and that is remarkable.

My uncle used to be in the business here too with my dad part of the time. He was Bill; Bill Webber. He got the only car out of that garage during that fire; the rest were all destroyed. There was a big gas tank in there that belonged to Herb Heathington(?). It was destroyed and when it blew up it just blew everything apart. But that garage was just packed. You couldn't get another car in it; for storage for the wintertime.

I knew Harry Krebs; he used to work for the telephone company. Some of these names, as I talk about it, the names come back to me. He was kind of a pal of mine. I was little but he was a good friend. I remember the old Simpson Mine. I used to go down there and play. That must have been when I came back; I must have been just a little bit older at that time. Yes, probably older than four.

You know I started to school; I went to one year of school here. The first grade of school at the old grade school. It burned down. Yes, it has; now it's gone. I have a grandson going to school there now. Oh, do hou? That kind of brings back memories. He's in seventh grade now. That's at the middle school now. Yes, the middle school. And what is his name? Glenn.

Well, this is real interesting because it fills in some of the gaps, you know. It's surprising how much each one adds to this; to find out what each person can tell you. As we drove down the street yesterday, I told my wife about certain places someone lived here - and now the names won't come to me - but as I looked at their residences, I could name them off. The Mayhoffer home over here. Yes, all these children are doing histories and so I cornered Elmo Lewis, do you remember Elmo Lewis? The names comes, but I can't ---. Well, he at one time, later on in life, in '39 he bought the boarding house so he was able to tell me the names of everybody from the boarding house and that helped. There was a - somebody they used to call Monk Lewis - do you know who that was? Yes, there was Monk and Greekie, but that's another family. Another family, well that name came back. His sister is still living here. Greekie Lewis has moved back in the last two years.

On the next block over - what's ---? Cleveland. On Cleveland, one block down on the northwest corner - had a daughter and two boys. A boy named Harry and a boy named Glenn. I don't recall the daughter's name - she was an older daughter - but I used to play with those boys. I don't know what Harry did for a living but I remember his wife used to ride a horse a lot; she'd ride right up to the fence there. She was quite a good rider too; I remember that. She had a side-saddle, remember those? Side-saddles, you don't see much of those any more. No you don't.

How long did you live here after you came back - you said until the Depression? When you came back the second time - until the Depression days. (illegible).

There used to be a roller skating rink up there above the garage. There was a lot of activity. They used to have dances. There was a regular ballroom up there. Now this is the first time I've heard of this. Yes, quite an active place back in those days.

I've never been able to find a picture of the opera house. I hear we had an opera house but it burned down. It would be just across the street from where your folks had their garage.

I remember the old pool hall used to be across there. And I can still smell that; it had an unusual odor, I don't know, I can't describe it. But it was a different - something about it - as soon as you got near that pool hall you could smell that. Sort of like Little Bill, he smokes strong cigars and his house is just - you can go walk by outdoors and you can smell Bill's cigars.

Blankenships used to be there across the street - the store. And I met Mildred just a few years ago. She wasn't very well. I'd known her all those years. The only name I can remember - Blankenships. The mother, Ida, died 13 years ago. She was in a Denver nursing home and I just didn't get down there. But she was quite a little lady.

Heathingtons used to be quite active here when he had his gas business. He used to haul gas all over the area, Texaco products. A long time ago. Wonderful people. I remember when I was just a tiny boy, somewhere around four years old or so, very bashful, and Grace said she wanted to adopt me. I spent a lot of time with them and she used to kid me about the way I'd hide my head under the table when someone would come in.

My dad used to go to school in the old Bermont Building. They had a school in the basement of it. It doesn't look the same as it used to, but years ago there used to be a basement under there and that's where the school was. The pictures out there on the table show the basement. This is the first time I've heard there was a school under there. What grades were these do you have any idea? My dad said he only went to third grade so probably, unless back in those days, they may have had all of the grades together. I don't know. But he said he only went to the third grade so. And about what year, do you have any idea when this was? The building was built in 1892, it says on the cornerstone in the pictures. I don't know, but I can figure pretty close and let you know. All right. I've learned so many things from you that I've never heard before. It's wonderful. The Bermont Store, the top was all torn down you know. Yes, it looks completely different. But when you get the pictures out, they have the door just the same as it used to be and a few things about it. But when the little man across the street built this building, he decided to have a building that would go with the way the Bermont Store used to look.

When I was just a boy, they had a bank robbery here. The old bank used to be on the corner and we stood up in the apartment and watched the goings on in the middle of the night. My folks cautioned us about standing there but we wanted to watch that bank robbery. That was quite a thing. The night marshall

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was tied to a telephone post as I recall. And what's his name, Stubbs, he was tied to the pole so he couldn't interfere with the robbery. We heard that big explosion and that's when they blew the safe. I've never heard this about that marshall before.

The Greens, did you know John Green, anything about John? Jack? Jack Green? No. He used to be involved in the mining and, well, during the time of the union strike. He was a relative from my mother's side of the family. He was an old timer here, Jack Green.

Did you know the Aldersons? Yes, real well, it was Herb, wasn't it? Jake. Jake still lives here. Cliff lives up here; he's retired, of course. They had a clothing store. Yes, then they sold out to Cherry's and then Cherry's moved to Broomfield. There wasn't as much business here as they wanted.

And the Dows had the drug store on the corner. And it seemed like there used to be a - well, was it in that place, a postoffice? I'll tell you what you ought to get - they're down at a little shop down here on Simpson East, and they have replicas of all the buildings up and down the street. You ought to get one of the garage. A little man is making them, Mr. Thomas Knill. I don't know if you'd remember him. Thomas Knill is making all the replicas of all the buildings that used to be up and down the street.

I don't know how long the Lays lived here. He used to be in with the Henning's Mortuary. He was here quite a little while before the Hennings. Do you know who built that mortuary house? Someone asked me that today. I'm not sure. I would believe that Lays built it. But I remember way back years ago when old funeral cars and ambulances and all were painted black but Hennings started changing; he had kind of a purple-colored arrangement. It was all together different than anyone else's around here. He was one of the early; he wanted something different than anyone else. He was an interesting man. Yes, he certainly was. I worked for him for a while. Later on. Well, the two girls live in Denver; you probably knew the two little girls; they both live in Denver now. The one girl's husband works for Channel 7. You'll see him on the credits. She is married to one of the Miller boys - Frank Miller - a relative of the Lafayette Millers. It's a small world; it gets smaller all the time.

Bill, (Bill Moon) could you come over here and sit closer to the mike for me?

Webber - What do you remember about my grandad; he had a livery stable there? (Moon - Yeah, then he kinda turned it into a garage later on.) Webber - Didn't they have a fire in the livery stable once? (Moon - Right. I was working for the National Fuel Company and I used to store my truck that I'd drive from here to Monarch and it burned it up.) Webber - It burned your truck up. They had another fire in 1922; that was when the garage burned. It leveled it clear down. We lived up above there. (Moon - Upstairs?) Webber - We lived upstairs. (Moon - Well, they had it for a lodge room, you know. And they used to have a dance up there.) Webber - And they used to rollerskate up there. (Moon - Yeah and the one across the street got burned and I know the Odd Fellows transferred over there. Where do you live, Denver?) Webber - Well, I live in Canon City now. (Moon - Oh, what have you been doing?) Webber - Well, I've been out in California for 20 years, working for United Airlines.

(Moon - I was down in Canon City a few years back - the Odd Fellows, you know, they have a place down there - orphans' home for the kids too, you know.)

Bill used to be mayor here, several times. And he was a butcher. (Moon - They wanted me to run again and my wife said, "Please don't", so I had to pay attention to her. 10 years I was mayor. They'd call her up and give her heck, about the water, the chickens was dying. I was out in the garage sawing wood, getting my exercise.) Getting hurt. (Moon - Yeah, I've done that.)

Webber - Who was Albert Moon? (Moon - That's my brother. He's seven years younger than I. He's bent over very much, I don't know what's causing it.) Webber - Is he still around? (Moon - Albert - he lives down here, one, two blocks down. Yeah, and he's an old bachelor too.)

Webber - I remember Dan Moon; Danny was just a young fellow. (Moon - There was Danny and John, that's my uncle. Tim's side, you know; Tim was my uncle and my dad's name was Walter. Dad used to live over here and Uncle Tim used to live down in the same block only on the other corner.)

(Moon - Yeah, I was on nights for a while, night watch, and I used to go in there and keep the fire going.)

Webber - What do you remember about my grandads, way back, can you think of anything about them? Jim Webber, the old man. (Moon - Well, he was a good guy from my opinion, because I was a young guy and I used to like to go to dances, you know. We guys would go down there and say, "Jim, how about it?" "Wait a minute" Then he'd give me the head, the nod to go. Oh, yes, he used to haul coal around town here.)

Webber - My dad said when he was just a little boy, they used to use the slip scraper a lot and they put him out on the slip scraper to work on the roads and basements. (Moon - Yeah they had a team of horses. Old Runge had it before, I think, Gus Runge. And I think your dad got it from them, if I remember right. Anyhow, the union store, as they called it, was just west of the livery stable. It got burned too. And then there was a baker shop there. And on the other side was the Mayhoffer. And they built a little house in between, in the rear, you know, kind of on the alley. That's still there.)

Webber - Do you remember the old garage building - it seems like there used to be a dress shop or something down there, connected. Do you remember? (Moon - Yeah, they had some lean-tos, I'd call them. And there used to be clothing, or dress shop, whatever you want to call it. And I think there used to be a photographer in there. It was right in there somewhere.) Webber - That goes a way back. (Moon - Yeah, probably before your time.) Webber - Could be, I do remember something of this little dress shop. (Moon - Yeah, it was on the east side.) Yeah, there was a dressmaker shop down there. (Moon - You wasn't born yet.) Yes, but Bill, you sat down and told me all the names of all the stores down the street there. This is my right hand, because whenever I need to know something, I can go over and ask Bill and he remembers.

Webber - Would you happen to know anybody by the name of Furrhman. Was there a butcher here? He had a butcher shop here way back and I tried to find something about him. (Moon - Wasn't Foote, was it?) Webber - No, it was spelled F-u-r-h-m-a-n. (Moon - Well there was Art Foote had one (butcher shop) and my dad had one.) Webber - Oh your dad was a butcher? (Moon - Yeah that's what got me into it. Put me back of the counter at the block with a quarter of meat when I was 15 and the first day he put it out, it was there when he came back. But the next day he put it out and he said, "I want that cut up". I knew what that meant; I cut it up. I didn't do a very good job. Dad run that during the strike and he'd take these fellows, well, they called them scabs, you know, they were working, and they'd go to Denver and get the - there'd be six or eight of them, you know would want to go or come, you know. Dad was fixin' fish hooks now in here. Dad owned that and they was on the same telephone line Webbers was - the shop - lots of times you'd hear it ring and you'd go pick it up, you know. Webber, or they'd want the butcher shop, you'd have to sort them out.)

(Moon - We'd go down to Denver once in a while, a bunch of us and women and go down to Pell's Oyster House, just for a pasttime. Yeah, I was good friends with Jim and Bill.)

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Webber - There were the Peltiers. (Moon - Yeah, Pete Peltier and Henry Peltier) The sister lives down in Westminster yet. (Moon - They used to run a saloon at one time up here. Just across the street of what's the jewelry store now. (Simpson and Public Road). Henry and Mildred had a kind of a candy and lunch room right down here. I don't know what's in there now.) The gift shop.) (That's another Moon in there (Library) Blanche is, you know. She belongs on the other tribe.) Webber - I asked her if she knew Wilma; I went to school with Wilma, about one year, I started to school here. (Moon - Well they had to burn the schoolhouse down here to get rid of me. The old brick one here, it was straight out here, two blocks. It had a stove and we'd have to go out and get a bucket of coal and when there was snow on the ground, some of us kids would put snow in it and get it wet, you know, so we could go home.) So it would smoke? (Moon - Yeah, it would put the fire out.)

Webber - They were asking me about that school over in the George Bermont Building. (Moon - Yeah, in the rearend, it was. And he had another on the rearend there, he handled farmer implements.) It was the first I'd heard about that school, I didn't know about that school in the basement of Bermont. (Moon - No, it was in the back.) In the back, in the back of the building. (Moon - And then there used to a hotel and rooming house upstairs, Broomfield, I think was the lady that run it; they had their rooms all full, but now you couldn't get a room overnight if you begged one; there's no place.) Took it all down didn't they? (Yeah, well, see they took the top story off where Hale is there on the corner. In fact, this house right across the street here, the second one, it was the first house in town then there was a little shack down there and then my folks moved part of their house from Louisville over across the alley from here and then added to, you know. You know how families increase - I don't know, it's the weather or something!- Moon) (Moon - How are the boys - Bill and Jim?) Webber - Bill and Jim are both gone. (Moon - One of them married Johnny Green's daughter). Webber - Edith. She lives out in California; her family's all out there with her. They have a nice family - they're in Lodi, California. (Moon - Yeah, her dad was the manager of the union store here.) Webber - Yes, and he had something to do with the mines too. (Moon - Yeah, he was some officer or somewhere. He used to come up to me when I was working and say "Billy, I'm going to Denver today, it's up to you".

How many of those Webber boys did you know? Let's see, there was Dave; did you know Dave? (Moon - Dave, Dave, Dave?) Did you know Joe? (Moon - Yeah, he wasn't Jim's boy was he, Joe?) No, Joe was the father; there were five brothers. (Moon - Different breed of cats.) Yeah, there were five brothers there. (Moon - There was Bill and Jim.) Well, Jim's boy. My granddad; that was Jim's boy. He had Dave, Joe, Jack, Jim. Jack was the oldest. Bill was the youngest. I remember something about Bill; did he have some goats or something hitched to a ----- when he was a boy? Bill was kind of a wild guy. (I went along with Jim, young Jim, more than I did with any of them. Jim and I kind of palled together - Moon.) That's good, I'm glad to hear that; he was kind of a favorite of mine too. (Laughter)

Bill's given me a lot of pictures for the history of Lafayette that he had; it's helped a lot. Plus all the interviews and help that he gives me as people come. I don't know what I'd do without him.

Say, Bill, you know Dow's Drug Store down on the corner down there. (Moon - Yes, where Gambles is now.) Yes, around the corner, there used to be a doctor's office. (Moon - Dr. Braden.) There we go, Dr. Braden; I couldn't remember. He was quite a fellow; I liked him. Dr. Porter is the one I had. (Moon - He used to go down in the mines. A lot of the town people - union people - didn't like it because he was taking care of what they called the scabs. Braden - you'd go down there; "I believe you've got a broken leg" - Well how much is it? "Oh \$2.50." Then he'd give you a handful of pills - "Let me know if it ain't all right". Well, both Porter and Braden, but now, if they look at you, look out! It's \$10.00 to walk in the office. Everybody liked Dr. Braden. (Moon - He was a good old guy. When I was working, I think down at Davis' and I used to have to go get my blood taken - the test for the health, you know. And I'd say, "What you using me for a pin cushion?" He says, "Well, I can't get nothin'; if the inspector comes on or the health officer, send him over to me, I'll settle him". I believe his needle was too dull or something.)

Everybody knew Dr. Hurt. He had an office over there in the old garage building. (Moon - Yes, upstairs, then he was over across the street in this other - there was a Dr. Goodwin here at one time. You'd go in there to get a tooth pulled and, "Well, open your mouth". You'd open your mouth and he'd take a lance and run around there and he'd say, "Now, get ahold there and holler' we're gonna go". They didn't deaden the nerve or nothin' else.)

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Did you know a Dr. Miller? (Moon - Sure; he was a dentist.)
He lived over on Cleveland, didn't he? (Moon - Over on the
corner, yeah.) I knew his boys.

Do you happen to remember a music teacher that taught piano
lessons up there in the garage? By the name of Margaret McMillan?
(Moon - Yeah; And there used to be a music teacher come down
from Longmont. He used to ride the train down, you know. He
was a man. And then Marcheck(sp) - Mary Marcheck, or something,
she was giving lessons there for a long time. They lived down
here on the creek; her dad used to have the slaughter house
down here, pretty near on the creek. Mrs. Marcheck is still
around here. (Moon - Yeah, she's quite old.) That's Anna
Hamilton.

I remember a man, I can't remember his name, but I remember
he used to wear those leggings all the time around here. Probably
a lot of people did back in those days. This one fellow -
dressed kind of spiffy - with the leggings.

Did you know a Cripps (?) that used to work for the telephone
company? (Moon - Yeah - that's when the telephone moved
different places - it used to be down here on the alley and
then on the other building). One time my brother did a little
work for him, some little thing. He said, "Well, Elmer, how
much do I owe you?" He said, "Oh, I don't know." "Well, how
long did you work?" "Oh, I don't know, maybe a couple of hours".
"Well, couple of hours, a couple of dollars." I was just a
little tiny fellow.

Bill, tell me something quick - when did they build the city hall?
(Moon - Oh, around the 80's, I think, '85.) I was about six,
seven years old when we moved here from Louisville and they
built part of it, you know, then they added a little more on it.
I guess they're addin' more to it now, I guess. They used to
have a brick jail down here in back of Everett West's place
on the southwest corner. They had the jail there too; they
had two cells. And the city clerk was there.) Then they moved
up to the new one, huh? I think that Percy Brillhart used to
be city clerk here, and Armstrong. Yes, I have some of the
books that have Armstrong in it. They moved all the city books
to the Library now. I have them all down in the basement.
(Moon - What are you going to do with them, be city clerk?)
No, I'm just historian, I guess.

I think most of the people back in those days worked hard.
(Moon) - Yes. They didn't have the things to work with they've got now. Either a back breaker or a pick and shovel or something. Like laying a sidewalk; they'd get out there and mix it up in one of those troughs, you know. Then they got the electric mixer, and now they bring it in by the truckload.

Webber - Yeah, those boys used to get coal at the mine and haul it on a wagon and load it into the railroad cars. It was quite a job, all by hand, shoveling.

Moon - Well they used to have men in the boxcar, the coal would come up and go down the chute and there would be two or three men in there and they'd have to throw it back in the cars. They were only getting, I think \$5.00 a day then. Now they want that much an hour. Webber - Yeah, or more.

Webber - I wish my dad could be here to talk to you; he could just go on by the hour. How old did your dad get to be?
He was 78. Moon - He was tall and slender. Webber - Yes, and he stayed that way all his life. Moon - Well, all the boys were. And old Mr. Webber, himself --/ Webber - he was shorter, wasn't he? Moon - Yeah, a little and he was thin as a rake. He didn't like that bailed hay and oats, I guess. Webber - His wife, did you know the Mrs.? She was quite a business lady, I guess. Moon - What was her name, do you remember? Webber - Sarah.

Moon - Jim had some land between here and --. Webber - Well, he had some land over by Platteville. Moon - Well, they had some down here south, on the road to Denver because, Albert, my brother used to --. Webber - He used to irrigate for him. Moon - Yeah. Webber - Yeah, down on Federal. Moon - That's down where the mushroom factory was, right in that neighborhood. Webber - Yeah, they used to have the mushroom factory there; they moved that all out. It's like a deserted ghost town there now. Moon - Well, they put kind of an airfield in there. Webber - Yeah, they started to. I helped take a whole half mile of trees out of there to get ready to build that airport and it never went through. Moon - They put a shed up there for a while, I know. Webber - Yes, we lived there in a little building there for a while, my wife and I. My dad lived there too in that little building for a while. We were living there when Albert irrigated it was farm ground.

Webber's address: 219 East Douglas, Canon City, Colorado