7.2 Cultural, Historical and Archeological Resources

*Introduction*
Chaffee County is a unique heritage landscape. The evolution of the Heritage Area is evidenced by numerous physical remains of its past, ranging from early indigenous sites to commercial buildings, private residences, schools, bridges, railroads, and stage routes.

Human occupation of the Arkansas Valley by indigenous peoples dates back thousands of years. By the 1600s, the Ute Indians, for whom many of the surrounding peaks are named, made the valley their home, taking advantage of the abundant water and wildlife. Decades of exploration followed, and included expeditions by notable explorers such as Spanish General Juan Bautista de Anza and Zebulon Pike. Historic records indicate that prospecting and placer operations were occurring near Granite as early as 1862, and by the late 1870s, the area had grown into a railroading, mining, farming and ranching region. In 1879, Chaffee County was established by a splitting of the older and larger Lake County and named for Jerome Chaffee who was a United States senator and a local investor. Buena Vista was also incorporated in 1879. Salida was established in 1880, and Poncha Springs, originally established as South Arkansas, was incorporated in 1880. Railroad operations and precious metal mining activities gradually diminished after the 1920s, the same year the Climax Mine near Leadville was established. By the mid-1950s, outdoor recreation and tourism began to grow in importance, primarily due to the scenic beauty of the county and the white water rapids of the Arkansas River.

Several organizations promote historic preservation in Chaffee County: Historic Salida Inc., Buena Vista Heritage, Salida Museum Association and Salida-area Parks Open-space and Trails. Historic Salida Inc. researches, preserves, interprets and promotes historic preservation in Salida and the surrounding community through workshops, grant sponsorships, scholarships and tours. Buena Vista Heritage is a membership organization that “exists to preserve and share the history of Buena Vista and Chaffee County for the education and enjoyment of the public,” through the ownership of select historic properties such as the Turner Farm, projects such as the restoration of the Buena Vista Depot, and programs such as historic tours and the Turner Farm APPLE FEST. Salida-area Parks Open-space and Trails encourages preservation of open space and historic sites such as Hutchinson Ranch.

Chaffee County maintains an historic sites database within its broad GIS collection of resource information. It is recognized that this database has not been updated since 2006. It is intended to be an inclusive list of all sites that have, or may have historic significance to the Heritage Area. These sites are primarily those that have received evaluation through the state’s Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) but also includes data from other sources such as local designation programs. It identifies resources listed on State and National Registers, but—very importantly—it also retains a record of other sites that have OAHP status such as “officially eligible” and
others that may have the significance and integrity to be listed. The database also includes sites not having yet passed through OAHP review so that they may be further evaluated and also flagged as needing to be addressed if proposed development might affect them.

**Specific Resources of Significance to Heritage Area**
This section provides a summary of those cultural, historical, and archeological resources that have been identified as being significant to the Heritage Area, or are considered worthy of further evaluation. Available documents including National and State Register lists, reports, nominations for historic sites and districts, historic photographs and documents, and the county’s GIS database of historic resources were consulted. A few additional resources have been identified as worthy of additional study by CCHAAB members and citizen input during preparation of this Plan.

Note that this summary represents the status of sites at the time this Plan was prepared in early 2008. Changes in condition of sites may alter their status, perhaps to the extent that they would no longer be considered significant heritage resources. It is also possible that additional significant sites will be identified, or that changing circumstances will indicate sites previously considered but rejected have become significant. Monitoring of existing sites, updating the State and National Register lists and the county’s historic database, and identifying additional sites are major actions proposed by the Plan.

**Listed and Eligible Historical and Archeological Resources**
Many of Chaffee County’s historical sites are recognized for their historical significance by their listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. Close to 100 such sites are listed on the National or State Registers or are locally designated (all are or should be listed in County GIS database). Approximately 22 sites have been identified as officially eligible by the OAHP eligible through previous assessments (listed in the County GIS database). An additional 28 sites have been identified as being field eligible by the OAHP through previous assessments (listed in County GIS database). An additional 13 sites have been identified as potentially eligible to the National or State Register or as local Salida landmarks by the 2005-2006 Historic Buildings Survey of Salida.

In addition, the 2005-06 Historic Buildings Survey of Salida documented thirty (30) properties in the central portion of Salida and included primarily residential structures. The survey results included a finding of six individual resources that are eligible to the National Register, 13 buildings that are eligible to the State Register and thirteen that are potential Salida landmarks. Other historic sites exist. Some have been evaluated previously and may be eligible for this designation. Others have not been reviewed, but are noted as potentially eligible sites. Still others are not deemed eligible at this time. A consultant versed in historic preservation standards will be needed to update the database.
Historic sites include the historic downtowns of Salida and Buena Vista with turn-of-the-century two-and three-story buildings and gridded street pattern. Evidence of a railroad past with tracks, a depot, and remnant railroad lines exist, and remnants of an original stagecoach road exist. Large expanses of agricultural fields that continue in production with small farmsteads occur along the Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway.

Current efforts for historic designation are generally focused on listing sites and districts on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation offers prestige in its listing and acknowledges the site's historical significance. The only local designation process is in Salida, where a Historic Preservation Commission was created in 2001 (Salida's Code of Ordinances, on Historic Preservation, Title 9, Chapter 20). In 2005 the city became a Certified Local Government (CLG), opening up incentives for preservation through tax credits and grant opportunities. It is the only CLG in the county. Salida's first local historic district was adopted by city ordinance at the same time. The ordinance provides for local designation as well as design review through the use of design guidelines and a certificate of appropriateness. It also discourages demolition. Demolition is only allowed if certain parameters are met, such as structural instability and a process of review including the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness.

The following chart “Listed and Eligible Historic Resources” and accompanying Figure 17 is drawn from the county’s historic resource database as of early 2008. It represents sites already listed on the State and National Registers but also includes those considered officially eligible, field eligible or unresolved. A determination of officially eligible or field eligible mean such sites have already met the criteria for National or State Registered status and may require only minimal effort to formally list, i.e., they are priority candidates for further effort and preservation.

Note that numbers in the chart have been assigned only for purposes of display in this Plan and for mapping in Figure 17, and are not the numbers assigned in the County’s database. The county organizes the database by numbers assigned by the OAHP, which also include UTM coordinates that allow for physically locating the sites. Not all OAHP numbered sites appear on the map since not all include UTM or geographic coordinate information. If a site has not been reviewed by OAHP, it will not have UTM or coordinate points.
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Listed and Eligible Historic Resources

Figure 17

PLAN LEGEND

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<th>Designated or Eligible Historic Sites</th>
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Figure 17

March 2008
Continuing Evaluation of Historical Resources

A second chart “Potential Historic Resources” and accompanying map Figure 18 completes presentation of material drawn from this planning effort, including those in the County historic resource database. The chart includes previously inventoried sites that are not listed on the State or National Registers but were deemed to be either not officially eligible, not field eligible, or unresolved or were noted as having no rating or needs data. In spite of these apparently negative conclusions, in the opinion of the CCHAAB, these resources may still have potential to contribute to the character of the Heritage Area and the Byway, particularly in relation to one of the interpretive themes which have been identified in this Plan. It is important to monitor these sites in case conditions change.
### POTENTIAL HISTORIC RESOURCES

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[Note: This list includes various potential historic resources in the region, including sites, structures, and locations that may be eligible for historic designation or contribute to the historical significance of the area.]
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<td>PEARL THEATER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>CHURCH~ST. JOSEPHS CATHOLIC (SALIDA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209</td>
<td>COLLEGE PEAKS GRANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>JERSEY LINE PLACER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>MISSOURI LIME PLACER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR BLACK WASH BRIDGE~SPTC BLACK WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR BYARS DRAW BRIDGE~SPTC BYARS DRAW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 3RD CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR CHALK CREEK VIADUCT~SPTC CHALK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR SIGNALS &amp; SWITCH MACHINE~SPTC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR CTC PHONE BOX~SPTC CTC PHONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 4TH CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR TROUT CREEK BRIDGE~SPTC TROUT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 5TH CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 6TH CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 7TH CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR 8TH CROSSING OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR LOW PASS CREEK BRIDGE~SPTC LOW PASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR FOREST SERVICE RANGER STATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>232</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR DRY WASH BRIDGE~SPTC DRY WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>D &amp; RGW RR AYER WASH BRIDGE~SPTC AYER WASH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 18

Potential Historic Resources

PLAN LEGEND

Potential Historic Sites for Review

1. No Rating or Needs Data
2. Officially Not Eligible - Non-Contributing or Field Not Eligible Non-Contributing
3. Officially Not Eligible - Non-Contributing or Field Not Eligible Non-Contributing - Potential for Another Review

Ownership

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Area of Critical Environment Concern
- Forest

Forest Service Wilderness
State Land
State Park, Wildlife, or Recreation Area
Private w/ Conservation

Scenic Byway
Federal Highway
Local Road
Trail
Stream/River
County Line

March 2008
Sites already OAHP Listed or Eligible but not yet on GIS database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Listed on National or State Register</th>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Addl Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morley Bridge at Romley – listed 8/2003</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, South Park and Pacific RR (Hancock to Quartz)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Tunnel Historic District – listed 9/1995</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Elmo Siding and Crew Quarters – listed 5/2001</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sites Newly identified in this Plan as meritng further study and should be added to GIS database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Listed on National or State Register</th>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Addl Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ironcity Cemetery</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Murphy Mine and Tramway</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods Cabin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson-Burnett Cabin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Construction Camp – DSP&amp;P above Hancock</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassam Guardstation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little John’s Cabin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent Mine – Rockdale</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver City Dawson’s cabin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Game Drive</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghost House</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, South Park and Pacific RR (Hancock to St Elmo)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Cemetery</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout Creek Pass – CCC camp</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek school house</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allie and Flora Belle mines</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smeltertown Historic Homes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial House</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Historic Resources of Priority Concern

Drawing on the summary of all historic resources above, this section provides guidance to the CCHAAB and its partners in setting priorities for historic resource preservation based on a site’s significance to the Heritage Area and its proximity to the Byway.

The National Register standards for evaluating the significance of these properties have been consulted in the development of the prioritized listing. Note that the state’s OAHP evaluates historic resources in terms of how they relate to defined historic contexts or to newly created historic contexts for specific places. Historic Contexts already identified by OAHP for these Chaffee County properties include: the historical and technological evolution of Colorado Railroads – 1858 to 1948; the historical and technological evolution of Colorado Bridges – 1900 to 1958; Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Arkansas River Basin; Historical Context For Colorado’s Highway System; the Mining Industry in Colorado.

Additional Historic Contexts to consider are: recreation and tourism in Chaffee County; dryland and irrigated farming and ranching in the Arkansas River Valley; and historic resources of the Leadville Stage road.

The priority sites are presented under three headings.

Heading 1 – Ongoing Preservation and Visitor Readiness

These sites, regardless of current formal status, are confirmed by the CCHAAB as being essential to maintaining the heritage of the county. If not already listed on Registers this status should be pursued and appropriate preservation or restoration sought. Because all these sites are considered of value in heritage tourism, preservation actions should include measures to make these sites further ready for visitation.

Hutchinson Ranch
Maysville School
Smeltertown
Poncha Springs Town Hall/School Building
Turner Farm
Buena Vista Depot
Buena Vista Heritage Museum
Salida Museum
Stagecoach Road
**Heading 2 – Byway Related**

The following are sites that are adjacent to or near the Byway. As such, protection of these sites would assist in preserving the character of the Byway. Numbers on sites within the table refer to site numbers on Figure 17 - Listed and Eligible Historic Resources and its accompanying chart.

Note that this and the following chart accompanying Destination Sites does not include sites already listed on the National or State Register but instead focuses on those determined to be as eligible or needing further data. This means that OAHP evaluation has already been accomplished and it may be fairly straightforward to designate such sites. Listing on the National or State Registers recognizes these sites for their heritage value, possibly aiding in gaining community support for needed preservation. In other words, these charts can be a powerful guide to the CCHAAB and its historic preservation partners in selecting those sites to address first to gain maximum preservation impact with minimum effort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Byway Related Sites</th>
<th>OAHP Evaluated</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sites newly identified during this planning process</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranchlands (upon request of property owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klugh Ranch; Chicago Ranch; Kelly Ranch; Winters Ranch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathrop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cogan Ranch; McMurry Ranch; Beauregard Ranch; Hill Ranch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salida</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson Ranch – lands in addition to current designation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sites in all following categories are already in GIS database</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 &amp; 6 – Leadville Stage Road; 8–Colorado</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Railroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Granite Bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-Bridge Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salida</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34-Denver &amp; Rio Grande Railroad</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37-Denver &amp; Rio Grande Railroad</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>OAHP Evaluated</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncha Springs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141-Denver and Rio Grande Poncha Pass Segment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42-Poncha Pass Rail Line</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151-Poncha Pass – Mears Otto Toll Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersed Rural</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57-Nathrop; 58-Corral</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Salida</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38- Salida Hydro Plant No. 1 and Penstock; 39- Salida Hydro No.2 Forebay Dam + Reservoir; 41- Salida Hydro Plant No.2 + Penstock; 111-Warehouse; 131-Salida Work Center</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54-Sherman Hotel; 59-Chinese Laundry; 69-Windsor Café; 77-Nevens Real Estate Agency; 100-Lippard's Drug Store; Poncha Springs Jackson Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Eight Fletcher Assoc. Placer Claims; 25-Eight Fletcher Assoc. Placer Claims; 21-Eight Fletcher Assoc. Placer Claims</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational/Institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salida</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129-Salida Post Office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Residential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salida</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Salida Residential Historic District – Refer to Downtown Salida Historic Buildings Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Tourism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-Salida Hot Spring</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109-Riverside Park; 110- Deweese Terrace; 116-Haight and Churcher Terrace</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Riverside Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Heading 3 - Destination Sites

The following sites have been identified in the Wayfinding and Interpretive Strategy as destinations to be visited and interpreted. The following chart identifies those sites, already on the GIS database, that may be considered as priorities for listing to the State or National Register and for further preservation due to of their importance in showcasing heritage resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OAHP Evaluated</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathrop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-Nathrop Cemetery; 60-Centerville Cemetery</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncha Springs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poncha Springs Cemetery</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vicksburg** (Vicksburg Mining Camp is on NRHP, 1977)

- **Mining**
  - 15-Granite Stage Stop
  - 16-Candy Kitchen
  - 6-Beaver City
  - 7-Log Home/Pioneer
- **Cemeteries**
  - 5-Winfield Cemetery

**Cottonwood Hot Springs**

- **Transportation**
  - 36-Cottonwood Pass
- **Commercial**
  - 41-Harvard City

**Mt. Princeton Hot Springs**

- **Transportation**
  - 68-Hortense Bridge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OAHP Evaluated</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>71-Hortense Road</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
<th></th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41 - Harvard City</td>
<td>Cabin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38-Fred Salassa Cabin</td>
<td>Recreation and Tourism</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-Mt. Princeton Hot Springs</td>
<td>70-Hortense Hot Springs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-Irrigation Ditch</td>
<td>Dispersed Rural</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Elmo (St. Elmo Historic District, 1979)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>72-Alpine Townsite</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>73-St. Elmo Railroad Grade</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smeltertown</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th></th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smeltertown Historic Homes</td>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147-Fairview Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maysville</th>
<th>Mining</th>
<th></th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35-Garfield Diversion Dam; 36-Fosses Dam &amp; Reservoir; 37-Denver &amp; Rio Grande Railroad; 38-Salida Hydro Plant No.1 and Penstock; 39-Salida Hydro No.2 Forebay Dam &amp; Reservoir</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37-Denver and Rio Grande Railroad</td>
<td>42-Poncha Pass Rail Line</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>142-Oscar &amp; Nannie Residence</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational / Institutional</td>
<td>Maysville School</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAHP Evaluated</td>
<td>New Actions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officially Eligible</td>
<td>Field Eligible of Eligible but needs data</td>
<td>No Rating or needs data</td>
<td>Officially not Eligible or Non-Contributing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monarch Quarry/Mine**

Transportation

30-Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad; 31-Denver & Rio Grande Garfield West Cut; 32-Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Grade Fill; 33-Denver & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad; 34-Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Garfield Cut

167-Monarch Pass

164-US Highway 50 Segment; 165-Old Monarch Pass Road; 166-Old Monarch Pass Road Segment

Commercial

162-Monarch Townsite

Cemetery

163-Monarch Cemetery

X | X | X | X | X |

X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
7.3 Existing Land Use

The stunning beauty and temperate climate of the Arkansas Valley, along with the affordability of the community makes Chaffee County an attractive place for development and growth. According to the Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan (March 2000) Chaffee County is experiencing rapid growth with a more than 5% growth rate each year since 1997 (in contrast to the statewide rate of 2% and national rate of 1%). Most new growth has been in unincorporated areas of the county with scattered residential development, which changes the area’s rural and scenic character and places a financial strain on the county in providing public services. The county’s population is currently more than 15,000 and is conservatively estimated to be more than 25,000 by 2020.

The county currently has traditional zoning that provides for seven zones including R-1 Residential, RR Rural Residential, RS Rural Suburban, R Rural, RC Recreational, C Commercial, and I Industrial. Pyramid zoning is in place, allowing for less intense uses such as residential to occur in commercial zones. The areas around Salida and Buena Vista are predominantly R-1 zoning where a minimum lot size is ½ acre. The valley (including areas to the west of Buena Vista and to the west and north of Salida) is predominantly RR that allows for single family residential with agricultural uses. The minimum lot size is 2 acres, and commercial uses are allowed. The western edge of the county in areas bordering public lands is generally zoned RS including the area north and west of Poncha Springs along highways 50 and 285. This zoning allows for 1 unit per 2 acres by right, or ½ acre with public sewer, and allows animals and crops. The rural (R) zone allows agricultural, farming and ranching, and is intended to “preserve and protect the best agricultural areas and maintain a desirable ‘rural and scenic’ atmosphere.” The minimum lot size allowed is 2 acres, or ½ acre with public sewer, and an approved on-site well. Commercial zoning (C) occurs primarily along the major arterials and highways near incorporated towns. Industrial zoning (I) occurs primarily around the two municipal airports.

Chaffee County is currently going through an intensive community process as a part of its land use code revision. Additional regulatory controls and incentives are being discussed through a series of stakeholder work sessions to find the right balance for the County.

The Chaffee County Heritage Area is rich in natural, agricultural, scenic, and recreational resources, some of which have been carefully managed by public agencies for years. More than 80% of the property in Chaffee County is public land, and includes lands owned and managed by the USFS, BLM, Colorado State Land Trust and Colorado State Parks. Chaffee County does not have its own parks system but it does have a few trails and a county-wide trails plan.
The San Isabel National Forest (500,000+ acres) includes the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness, Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, and the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, which encompass 168,000 acres of which about 89,000 acres are in Chaffee County, and overlaps three National Forests: the Gunnison; the White River; and the San Isabel. The name comes from the many peaks within the wilderness named after famous universities. The headwaters of the Arkansas, Gunnison, and Roaring Fork Rivers drain from the Continental Divide, and elevations range from 9,500' to 14,000'. Expansive alpine tundra, high lake basins, glacial river valleys, and beautiful forests compose the landscape.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages about 50,000 acres of public lands in the planning area for a multitude of uses including, but not limited to, recreation, mining, wildlife habitat, and livestock grazing. About 20 percent of these lands are part of the Browns Canyon Area of Critical Ecological Concern (ACEC) and Brown’s Canyon Wilderness Study Area. An ACEC is defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act as an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes. Salida and Buena Vista both have public parks that provide traditional recreational activities like sports fields and trails, and connections to trails on state and federal lands. Salida has a recreation plan and trails plan for the city.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area’s (AHRA) 10,000 acres is jointly managed by Colorado State Parks and the BLM. The Arkansas River is one of the world’s most popular whitewater rivers for kayaking and rafting, while at the same time is recognized as Colorado’s premier brown trout river. Abundant opportunities for camping, picnicking, hiking, wildlife watching, mountain biking and OHV travel can be found throughout the 150 miles of the recreation area which stretches from Leadville, through the Sawatch mountain range to Pueblo, on the edge of the Colorado plains. The park contains 23 boat access ramps, six basic campgrounds, an overlook group picnic area and numerous trails originating from river access points.

The following table summarizes the county’s existing land ownership and management status of protected areas and their considerable resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Forest</td>
<td>358,650</td>
<td>55.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Forest Wilderness</td>
<td>89,480</td>
<td>13.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>39,380</td>
<td>6.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management ACEC</td>
<td>10,965</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Land Board</td>
<td>10,022</td>
<td>1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Land Board Stewardship Trust</td>
<td>6,574</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>4,919</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private land</td>
<td>127,389</td>
<td>19.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private land with Conservation Easement</td>
<td>1,417</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage Area (total)</strong></td>
<td><strong>649,024</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings

- The existing Chaffee County land development codes do not permit the use of techniques such as cluster development that can help protect open space without affecting a property’s overall allowable density.

- Few development incentives are available to property owners.

- Regulatory controls to preserve scenic, cultural, natural, or historic resources are minimal, especially in the rural areas of the county and particularly in the immediate lands in the Arkansas Valley.

- A broad array of the regulatory controls and incentives could be used to protect important scenic views and significant natural and cultural resources. These include overlay districts, scenic view ordinance protection, and conservation areas.

- The Heritage Area Advisory Board is a participant in the land use code revision. During the revision process, the Board’s role is as an active participant to suggest regulatory controls and incentives that promote the values of the Heritage Area and the Collegiate Peaks Byway.

- The current process to revise the land use code is reviewing these regulatory controls and incentives with an inclusive community process that includes a diverse group of stakeholders. This group represents the various opinions in the county on specific zoning and development issues.

- Specific areas or scenic views that warrant protection or additional controls have not been identified.

- Although more than 80 percent of the 1,115-square mile planning area is public land, without landscape connections between areas or critical buffers, natural resources will remain threatened, recreation experiences will be altered, and productive agricultural lands may be jeopardized by encroaching development.
7.4 Wayfinding and Road Conditions

The following summarizes the existing roadway conditions for the highways that are within the Chaffee County Heritage Area Plan. These highways include:

- US-24 (between Granite and Buena Vista)
- US-285 (between Buena Vista and Poncha Springs)
- US-50 (between Poncha Springs and Salida)
- CO-291 (between Salida and US-285)

The existing roadway conditions data were obtained from the CDOT Region 5 database and verified in the field during a windshield survey performed by Fehr and Peers on November 12, 2007.

The following are the CDOT surface conditions for each of the highways within the study area for each mile post. Refer to the Roadway Conditions Memorandum in the Appendix for the table associated with this data. The data were last updated in 2006. CDOT defines the pavement surface condition as:

- **Good:** RSL (Remaining Service Life) greater than or equal to 11 years.
- **Fair:** RSL greater than or equal 6 years and less than 11 years.
- **Poor:** RSL Less than or equal to 5 years.

The pavement condition on US-24 is good from milepost 191 to 202. The pavement condition degrades to fair or poor from milepost 202 to 214. Many gravel pull-out locations exist along US-24. Wide shoulders along the length of US-24 exist outside of Buena Vista due to the intermittent driveways on both sides of the highway.


The pavement condition on US-50 is good from milepost 217 to 223. The pavement condition is fair at milepost 216 and poor at milepost 215. US-50 is four lanes throughout the study area and is built out along a majority of the corridor. Frequent access occurs throughout the US-50 corridor.

The pavement condition on CO-291 is good from milepost 0 to 8. The pavement condition is fair from milepost 8 to 9. CO-291 has a narrow shoulder on both sides of the road outside of Salida city limits.
CDOT Planned Improvements
A draft of the 2035 San Luis Valley Regional Transportation Plan (SLVRTP) was released in July 2007. Chaffee County highways within the study area are studied in the SLVRTP. The SLVRTP does not identify any immediate projects to widen any of the study highways.

The 2035 Constrained Plan notes the following improvements to the study highways:

- Add passing lanes and auxiliary lanes on US-24 where needed.
- Add passing lanes and auxiliary lanes on US-285 where needed.

The Corridor Vision sheets for each study corridor from the Draft 2035 SLVRTP are included in the appendix to provide long-range plans for each corridor.

Wayfinding Summary
Chaffee County has a rich palette of scenic, historic, and cultural attractions that draw new residents and visitors on a year-round basis. It is evident that those who live there truly value all the valley has to offer, and have spent copious hours setting up interest groups, partnerships, and mechanisms to preserve and highlight these attractions for the visiting public. The result is a wide array of players, resulting in a wide array of logos, signs, and interpretive installations. The following list was gathered in a brief, non-scientific process. It is surely not complete, but the net effect is a potential difficulty in achieving a cohesive signing program.

Key Issues and Findings include the following.

- Becoming “Visitor-Ready”- Specific Observations

  Chapter 5.0 Wayfinding and Interpretive Strategy provides recommendations for implementation by the CCHAAB to provide the most effective methods to tell the heritage story for Chaffee County through informational, directional, and interpretive signage.

  After reviewing the existing signage and the knowledge that a new logo and identity piece is in the process, there are 5 specific observations:

  Wayfinding
  1) There are three spectacular natural gateways to the county. One has a sign in need of refurbishing. These could be considered the Entry portals to the County, logical places to announce the Heritage Area boundary.
2) There is inadequate or outdated signage directing visitors to downtown areas.

3) There is inconsistent application of brown DOT signs along the main highways to alert visitors to historic or scenic areas. These could be labeled **Level 1 Informational/Directional**.

4) There is no county-wide wayfinding and wayfinding directional signage to promote visitor attractions. These could be labeled **Level 2 Informational/Directional**.

**Interpretive**

5) Interpretive signs are scattered throughout the area, many with differing themes, and many with repetitive themes. Some are specific to a site, some address broader themes relating to Colorado. There is design continuity only among a few. These could be labeled **Level 3 Interpretive**.

**Commercial Signage**

6) Some of the commercial signs throughout the area detract from the scenic and historic character that has inspired the Heritage Area planning effort. The Comprehensive Plan has identified problems inherent in the local sign codes that allow this type of “sign pollution.”

### 7.5 Existing Visitor Amenities

The current visitor amenities in the Chaffee County Heritage Area offer an array of choices for travelers and residents. Amenities include gas stations, fast food restaurants, grocers and suppliers, restaurants, standard lodging such as motels, specialty shops, specialty lodging, fine dining, coffee shops, entertainment, and cultural sites such as museums and visitor centers.

Basic services such as gas stations with rest rooms and snack shops are found throughout the Heritage Area. These tend to be located along the Scenic and Historic Byway and other major travel routes. More tourism-based amenities, such as specialty lodging and fine dining, occur in the downtown areas, specifically in Buena Vista and Salida.

The extent of services and quality of products provided by each vendor are usually a reflection of their location. As expected, a wider array of services and amenities exists along the Heritage Area’s main streets and in the downtown areas, where there are generally several choices of restaurants, shops, lodging, and even gas stations. Throughout the Heritage Area, the businesses tend to be locally owned and operated. Local business owners are generally focused on specific merchandise or services,
and the few chain or franchised shops that exist tend to cater to the specific needs of residents and visitors. The outdoor activities offered by the Chaffee County Heritage Area are supported by a wide array of merchants who cater to their specific needs. Outfitters, sporting goods shops and rentals, and clothing stores are examples of these types of visitor amenities that provide products for rafting, mountain biking, hiking, skiing, and fishing.

Places, activities, and events are well publicized through free publications. These are easily found throughout the county at local merchants and businesses. These free publications provide important information on the broad array of food, lodging, history tours, and other events that make Chaffee County unique.

**Key Findings**

- Traveler amenities are well distributed and are usually concentrated within a town or a developed area. A concentration of amenities offers a better visual experience along the Scenic and Historic Byway.

- Some amenities, such as gas stations or convenience stores, are scattered along undeveloped portions of the Scenic and Historic Byway. These detract from the beauty of the setting.

- Important comforts and quality establishments are offered in the larger towns, particularly in Buena Vista and Salida. These critical amenities are essential in attracting the heritage traveler and the more discriminating recreationalist.
Historic Downtown Resources

PLAN LEGEND

Historic Sites
- Listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places or locally designated
- Officially Eligible
- Field Eligible or Unresolved
- Officially Not Eligible - Non-Contributing or Field Not Eligible Non-Contributing

Potential Historic Sites
- Salida Downtown Historic District
- Salida Downtown Historic District Overlay

Scenic Byway
- Federal Highway
- Local Road
- Trail
- Stream/River
- County Line

Figure 19
Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage: Existing Conditions

**General Observations**
- Challenges in maintaining a cohesive, historic, and cultural experience for visitors due to the fragmented nature of signage and inconsistent typographic style.
- Need for a systematic approach to improve the on-site experience, ensuring clear and consistent wayfinding through improved signage and interpretation.

**Wayfinding**
- Existing wayfinding is inconsistent, making it difficult for visitors to navigate.
- Lack of clear signage at key entry points, such as the Chaffee 285 sign, which is not immediately visible to drivers.
- Signage is often obscured by vegetation or located in areas that are not easily accessible from major roadways.

**Interpreters**
- Signage is not clearly related to the historic or cultural significance of the site.
- Lack of consistency in the presentation of information, which can be confusing for visitors.

**Commercial Signage**
- Commercial signage is prominent and sometimes overwhelming, competing with the historic and cultural elements of the site.
- There is a need to integrate commercial signage in a way that does not detract from the historical significance of the site.

**Wayfinding: Entry**
- Signage is not clearly visible from major roadways, making it difficult for visitors to find the site.
- Need for a prominent sign at entry points, such as the Chaffee 285 sign, to welcome visitors.

**Wayfinding: Level 1**
- Lack of clear directional signage at key points, such as the one near the Chaffee County Courthouse.
- Need for consistent and clear signage to guide visitors through the site.

**Wayfinding: Level 2**
- No clear county-wide system at this time.
- Lack of a cohesive approach to wayfinding, which can be confusing for visitors.

**Wayfinding: Level 3**
- Pedestrian Storytelling Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Need for clear and consistent signage to guide visitors on foot through the site.

**Interpretive: Level 3**
- Pedestrian Storytelling Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Need for clear and consistent interpretation of the site's history and cultural significance.

**Commercial: Vehicular Scale, Quantity, Image**
- Installation of commercial signage within the site.
- Need for clear and consistent signage to guide visitors through the commercial area.

**STAKEHOLDERS (partial list)**
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Colorado State Parks

**LOGOS (partial display)**
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Colorado State Parks

Figure 20
8.0 Appendix
Appendix A
Chaffee County Heritage Area Plan--Oral History Workshop
November 29, 2007

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Stacey Stickler, moderator
Chaffee County Heritage Area Plan--Oral History Workshop
November 29, 2007
Group 1

List of Participants
Grant Heilman
Conrad Nelson
Mary Boardman
Beth Smith
Cara Russell
Melanie Roth
Ron Little
Barb Little
Lynal Little
Alberta Mitchell
Flora Harrison

Stacey Stickler
“My name is Stacey Stickler and I am here for the Chaffee County Heritage Area Plan Oral History Workshop on November 29, 2007.”

Grant Heilman
“I’m Grant Heilman and I’m also here, obviously, and I live west of Buena Vista and have for 31 years…so I’m a new-comer.”

[Laughter]

Conrad Nelson
“I’m Conrad Nelson. I am Grant’s wife and we’ve known each other from Pennsylvania and I’ve been here almost 15 years now.”

Barb Little
“I’m Barb Little from Buena Vista and my family first moved to Buena Vista in 1940, so I’ve been around a long time.”

Stacey- “Excellent.”

Mary Boardman
“I’m Mary Boardman. I was born and raised on a ranch west of Salida. I graduated from high school here and everything so I’m really an old-timer.”

Beth Smith
“And my name is Beth Smith. I’ve probably lived here 25 years, but I’m interested in the oral history over at the library, so I came to observe and meet some new people I hadn’t known before.”

Lynal Little
“I came here with my folks to Buena Vista in 1935 and have been there ever since, except for four years I was in the Air Force. The rest of the time I’ve been there.

Stacey- “Excellent.”
Cara Russell  
“I’m Cara Russell. I’ve lived in Buena Vista for 5 years. I’ve been on the Buena Vista town council for 3.5 years and I’ve worked for Buena Vista heritage for 3.5 years.

Melanie Roth  
“I currently live in Alpine which is up in Chalk Creek. The first time I ever hit Chaffee County was when I was two weeks old in 1958 and my family has been coming to the area during the summers since the early ‘20s. I’m here as an adult because I absolutely love this county.”

Stacey- “And your family came here because of the recreational value?”

Melanie- “It was because of the temperature, I think.”

Stacey- “Is that right?”

Melanie- “And difference in location. You know, that was in the ‘20s prior to air conditioning. My mother had several heat-strokes, so she had to get out of the warm weather during the summer.”

Stacey- “Okay. Everyone here sounds as though they’ve been here for awhile. I’m curious what drew your families here a long time ago, say in 1940 when your family came here. What drew them here?”

Barb- “They had moved from Iowa, Hawthorne, Iowa. They were doing farming work and then dad went to work for the prison at Buena Vista, so we moved from Leadville down there.

Stacey- “And your family?”

Grant- “I moved here in 1976, and I was then married to Barbara Whippel who died in 1989. And we came here because we’d always wanted to live in Colorado and our youngest child was through high school and our dog had died and my business in Pennsylvania could run itself, so we came and I’ve enjoyed it ever since.”

Stacey- “Excellent. Anyone else want to offer? Yeah, please.”

Mary - “My grandparents came from Largo, Italy. Both sides, my father was a Deluca and my mother was a Valtree. And so in 1886, my grandfather came to Salida. And of course there were a lot of peasants, there were peasants in Largo, Italy at that time and so they came to the United States for better advantages. And so they came here, he came here, and then he went up to Ouray and Maysville and Minturn, working on the railroad and coal mines and everything and then he started buying, uh, at that time there was the…I think it’s called the Homestead Act and then he started buying ranches and so at one time he bought 3 or 4 ranches that are up off of 140 and my dad was born in 1900. On my mother’s side, her father came in 1894 and he also worked on the railroads, making the railroad tracks, and stuff way up at Crested Butte. He had been in Africa, he had laid the railroads in Africa also. And then he also bought, he bought the ranch that now they call the Vandaveer Place, he bought that in 1898 and there was, uh, a section which is 640 acres, he bought it and I have the deeds and stuff, for only $2,000. [Laughter] He’s probably turning over in his grave right now. And then my mother and my dad where married in 1924 and then my dad was ranching and then he did a lot of saw-milling and all that. I’m fortunate because my parents kept their land and so my husband and I came back from Denver, from Lakewood, and we moved to one of the ranches that my dad had, he had two ranches, and so now we built a home up there. So that’s the story.”

Stacey- “Great. That’s good. And what about your family?”

Beth? “Well, I moved here with my family, my husband and four children in the ‘70s. My children all went to the high school. And we’ve lived in Denver since then and we decided to retire right back here.”
Stacey- “And how about your family?”

Lynal- “My dad worked for the Game and Fish. He was working at Glenwood Springs. Then in 1935 he was transferred to the fish hatchery there at Buena Vista. He was right next to, there was a reformatory then, and he was right next to that. And then, uh, I just stayed around there.”

Stacey- “Good. And you?”

Cara - “We moved here five years ago from Denver. My husband and I decided we really weren’t city people. So we went small-mountain town shopping and it came down to Salida or Buena Vista, whichever one we could get a job in first and Buena Vista turned out to be the one.”

Stacey- “So what brought you here today? Anyone, you can just chime in.”

Mary? - “I wanted to share my heritage, because I think it’s really a great thing to share. There are a lot of new people here who have no idea, you know, where we have come from, a little tiny place. My mother went to school in Cleora, which is down the road, you know, and it was like a one room schoolhouse and she would tell me stories about the teacher. Mom would ride her horse to the school. And then also my father, he went to a school, my mom only went to 8th grade, because she had to work on the farm, my grandpa had this huge farm and my dad the same thing, he went to a school that’s up off of highway 50 and I can’t remember the name of it, you know where the Friend Ranch is, well it’s right up the hill there and now somebody has built, attached and a building to it, they’re building a home in it, I can’t remember the name of it. Do you know what it is?”

Cara? “I can’t remember the name of it. It’s a Linda, ah, that works for the building department, it’s her family.”

Mary? “Oh. Is that right? And then my dad went to school there until 4th grade and then he had, they pulled him out because he had to work on the farm.”

Stacey – “Is that the Mount Princeton School?”

Mary ? – “No, no, no. It’s off of Highway 50.”

Stacey – “Oh, right. Exactly”

Cara? - “Marveleros. That’s it. Do that make sense? No?”

Mary? – “Well, see the Martellaros were there but that wasn’t the name of the school. I can’t remember the name of the school right now. I’ll think about it, but I can’t remember it. But I thought it was good to be able to share.”

Cara? – “Is your mother Betty?”

Mary – “No, my mother is Rose, Rose Daluca. Rose Valtree Daluca”

Stacey – “And what brought you here?”

Conrad - “Well, I was getting a second degree in Fine Arts in my 50s and I decided that I wanted to leave the east because it was too crowded and getting to be nothing but housing developments. I lived on a farm at the time and so Grant and I re-connected because I had been his son’s baby-sitter. [Laughter] And so after Barbara had died then we re-connected and I came out here and I think that what I love about it is the fact that my family on my mother’s side has a very strong sense of family but
in Cincinnati, Ohio and I KNEW I didn’t want to live there and so I guess that’s why I like this place because it’s a small town and one has really a chance to make a difference here.”

Stacey – “Excellent. And what brought you here today?”

Conrad – “I brought the old-timers today, and I wasn’t quite sure what this was going to be, but my husband’s been here a long time and then we brought friends from across the street because they are Chaffee County history bona fides. So.”

Stacey – “Great. Thanks. And what brought you here today?”

Lynal – “I don’t know. Kinda to see what was going on. I didn’t know too much about it and just thought I’d come a see what was going on.”

Stacey – “Okay, okay, good. And Beth, what brought you here today?”

Beth – “Well, I have quite a few people who are interested in the history of this town. And they now that I do the oral histories from the library. And they called me and said, ‘Find somebody who would like to come and talk.’ So I called about 15 or 20 of my people and we decided we’d all meet here.”

Stacey – “Well, Chaffee County is a well connected community.”

Beth – “Right.”

Stacey – “It’s really community based, it’s nice to see. Let’s see,”

Cara – “One reason I really wanted to come in addition to being involved with the heritage area, is when you look at the histories of Chaffee County’s, individually with Salida and Buena Vista, they don’t touch on the stories on what it was like to grow up on a farm, or how you used to drive into town to get your supplies, it’s just the highlights kind-of-things, and that’s what I’m hoping that this whole session will bring out are those personal stories.”

Stacey – “The day-to-day.”

Cara – “Yes.”

Stacey – “Okay.”

Cara – “The true history of the area.”

Stacey – “Well, you know, and that’s actually a good point, I’d love to hear the story of what it was like day-to-day. You know, this is a totally different place than it was, so please, add anything you want and tell us was it was like.”

Cara - “I was going to say that I’ve always been remiss, I’ve always heard about a store that was in Salida, Murdoch’s, it was on F Street and nobody that I know that I’ve talked to my age has ever heard of it before. But it’s been gone for a long time.

Mary? - “Was it a clothing store?”

Cara - “Hmm, mm.”

Mary – “Yeah, yeah. I remember all those stories. We had many, many stores. I remember the nicest thing about Salida was that we had wonderful clothing stores. We had Coosbegs, we had Mrs. Sharp’s. Remember Mrs. Sharps? Mrs. Sharp’s Clothing Store. We had Duffdens. It was a men’s store.
We had B & C, remember the B&C? We had many stores. We had the Five & Dime Store, oh, uh...one thing I do remember was there were a lot of men who were tailors and they would actually make, I mean you didn’t have to go to get, you know, clothing any place else, they would make suits and everything for you. And the clothing was fantastic, I mean, you didn’t have a bunch of second hand stores. It was all stores that were, you know. And, um, oh, one thing I do remember is we had and I used to love to come down, because I lived on the ranch, you know. And we would come down and we would go to the bakery, it was the coolest bakery and we would get, uh, we would get donuts for 5 cents a piece, 60 cents a dozen and they were great big, great big and it was really cool doing that. And I remember, I don’t want to take up all your time, but I do remember one thing. When President Truman had come through Salida and, uh, of course we had a nice big depot, we had a beautiful depot down there. I remember as a child coming down to see him because he was on his campaign tour. And that stuck in my mind—that was really a cool thing.”

Stacey – “Yeah, and I guess to add to that, were there any other special events? Of course we all know that FIBArk happens every year. Were there other events that took place on an annual basis that may still take place, or don’t take place anymore that you could talk about?“

Mary - “Well, once again, I remember that when I was in High School, Danny Makras, I think was his name, and he was one of the first ones that started that going down the river, with the kayaks and stuff and it was so cool, you know, it was really a cool thing. And I also remember, I think they still do that, I think that the freshman still go and paint the “S” and I remember as a freshman going up and painting the “S,” you know, every year we would do that and then as freshman they would have, like, initiation, uh, for like a week, or like 4 or 5 days and uh, the boys would have to dress up like girls, and uh, I don’t even know if they still do that—that was a thing that was kind of neat. And as far as, I remember when they had the first FIBArk, it wasn’t called FIBArk.”

Stacey – “What was it called?”

Mary – “I can’t remember. Something-Arkansas-River-Something. I can’t remember. I’m not for sure, but anyway, but that was started by the Macras’s.”

Stacey – “And were there ever any events around a person? You know, that were about, in honor of a person?”

Mary – “You know, I don’t really remember that. Like I say, I was born and raised on the ranch, so we didn’t come in, we would be bussed in, uh, and then, uh, be bussed back home, so and uh, we didn’t come into town that much—to get groceries. Oh, there was a grocery store, uh, it was called Velmudo’s Grocery Store that was up on F Street, I mean on 1st Street. It was on the corner of first and what? What’s the name of that street, I can’t remember.

Cara- “What the New Sherman? Like, caddy-corner from the New Sherman?”

Mary. “No, it’s like, you go up the hill.”

Lynel. “It’s a little farther.”

Mary. “Yeah, what’s the name of that street?”

Lynel. “I don’t remember.”

Mary. “I can’t remember, but anyway, it’s up on the little hill as you cross the, you know where the skate thing, the skate thing is? Where the skate thing is there used to be Pete Berone’s coal. That’s were he would have his coal dumped and then people would come and get their coal. But you go to that, and then you go up the little hill, and at the top of the little hill is where Velmudo’s Grocery Store used to be.”
Cara- “And Salida always had big, beautiful 4th of July parades and celebrations, right?

Mary- “Oh, yes, yes, yes.”

Cara- “And Veteran’s Day parades, also, or?”

Mary- “Yes, they used to, yes.”

Conrad?- “That was one of my impressions when I first came out here, I was so impressed by all the parades and standing on the curb and, uh, everybody being there and the Gold Rush Days and, uh, this is in Buena Vista and all the events, particularly in the summer. But such, you know, you’d get all the fire engines and you’d get all the police cars and you’d get everybody walking and um, you know, it really gave you a sense of community.”

Cara- “Well, I’ve always been surprised, we’ve got so many people in that 4th of July Parade, I can’t believe there’s anybody left to watch!” [Laughter] “Did you ever go to June Fest in Buena Vista? There was like a street dance. That was the neatest—I’ve always had the best time there.”

Stacey- “Can you describe what that is?”

Cara- “Well it was, like, all the businesses down-town stayed open late, and, but it was a street dance.”

Lynel- “Well, they started it when they paved Main Street the first time. They had that celebration.”

Grant- “When was that?”

Barb? “It was June 18, 1977. Because our son was married that day and he carried his bride down the street.” [Laughter] “That was the first celebration after the streets were paved.”

Stacey- “And does that—oh, go right ahead please, Beth.”

Beth – “Something of more recent history is Christmas Mountain up there behind Salida. I’m sorry you’re not here at night because it’s on now.”

“It’s gorgeous.”

Beth – “And it’s a beautiful thing in the evening. In fact, I’ve heard about airline pilots that come a little out of their way to see, so their passengers can see that Christmas Mountain gets lighted up at night. Recently, the city bought the land and they’ve made part of Salida, now. It’s going to be there for awhile—I hope.

Stacey – “Good, good. And so, what is it called, June Fest? Is that still happen?”

Cara- “No.”

Stacey- “Oh.”

Melanie “It’s was only for—I celebrated my 21st birthday downtown and they were all like, ‘You’re 21? I think we’ve seen you before.’ But the street dance we have now is part of the Mountain Mania Car Show which is around the 4th of July weekend. Somewhere, yeah, July, yeah. But did everybody from Salida come up to the Head Lettuce Days—the celebration in Buena Vista?

Mary? “You know, I don’t, I don’t remember ever participating in that but they may have, you know they may have. One other thing I’d like to say, I remember in high school we would have football, and
we would have parades for Homecoming and I don’t now if they do that yet, but we would have parades and have the queens and so forth.”

“We do that.”

Mary? - “Oh cool, cool.”

Stacey – “ I guess that, my question is, in terms of agriculture, you know, now it seems like it’s, I could be wrong, but it seems like a lot of it is range land and I’m wondering back, you know, 20, 30 years, do you remember what they were cultivating?”

Mary ? “I do, I do. I remember they used to have a lot of truck farms here. This is a fantastic place for truck farming. Martellaro’s used to have a great big truck farm—lettuce, carrots, cabbage, everything imaginable. Pasquale’s on the other side of the river—big truck farms, um, and even my grandparents at the beginning, a lot of truck farming because even though it has a short season, those kinds of crops—it didn’t make any difference. But as far as when I was young, my parents had a lot of grain, we had lots of grain, uh, wheat, oats, barley and then they also had a lot of alfalfa and then we had a lot of—I remember, I hated Thanksgiving because we would have turkeys and we’d have to kill these turkeys for Thanksgiving and I remember holding on to them like that. And then we had tons of chickens, at least 200 chickens, and we had rabbits that we would sell, cause this was all a money making thing, you know and during those times, of course you know my parents when through the Great Depression and so they learned to do all this, they tried to raise as much as they can. We had sheep, we had cattle, so we had a lot of—that’s what our family did. And then my dad also in order to pay for the ranches he had permit to go up into the mountains and the forest ranger would mark the big timbers and he would cut them and we had a saw mill at our ranch and he would saw the timber into planks and whatever and he would sell them to—I think that it was Hilton, down the way, close to the Safeway, I think they’re still there. I can remember as a child just being so afraid because my dad had this really old truck, I mean really old and he would have horses, he would go up and cut the timber and then skip the timber with the horses and then I don’t really know how he got them up on the, whether it was with a wench type thing or what, to get them up onto the big truck and then he would tie them with the great big chains and then all I can remember is just praying and mom would be scared to death, you know ‘Dad isn’t here, it’s starting to turn dark’ and everything and I remember the feelings that I would have and that he was a logger, too, so and there were a lot of things around here that people did and of course mining, railroading, and of course the farming. And the farms, a lot of them had a lot of different grains, also and they would feed their pigs and, you know, it was like that.”

Stacey – “And Barbara, what kind of farm did your family have?”

Barb- “Well, back in Iowa they had corn, you know, mostly corn and hay.”

Stacey – “And when they came here they didn’t farm anymore?”

Barb- “Well, Dad did the first year we moved to near Marble, between Carbondale and Marble and he worked on a ranch there. It was called the Taylor Ranch. So, that was for a couple years.”

Cara? “Did that cure him?” [Laughter]

Barb- “Well, he never went back.”

Stacey – “And your family, Ron?”

Ron – “Well they used to raise a lot of head lettuce. And then, usually in August, they had the celebration called Lettuce Day and they’d have a parade and rodeo and they always had a big barbeque—some of the ranchers would donate the meat for the barbeque and they’d have that every year.”
Stacey – “And it took place in Salida, or?”

Ron – “No, in Buena Vista.”

Stacey – “It was in Buena Vista. Okay.”

Ron – “And uh, I don’t know, there were several places that raised lettuce and they’d cut it in the day time and hall it into a lettuce shed there in the evening and I worked in the lettuce shed there and you’d have to work at night because they were cutting lettuce in the daytime, then hall it in, and then you’d have to go work in there and get it all boxed up and everything and then a truck would come in and pick it all up and hall it into Denver that same night.”

Stacey – “Okay.”

Cara? - “Wasn’t it called the lettuce capital of the world? Buena Vista?”

Ron – “Well, yeah, well, I don’t know if of the world, but they used to raise a lot of..”

Cara? – “And how did that, when did that stop and why?”

Ron – “Well, I heard that California was raising more lettuce and that, uh, it just didn’t pay, I guess to raise it here.”

Grant - “I think it was when irrigation came to California.”

Ron – “Well, yeah, probably.”

“And also refrigerated railroad cars. We lost our advantage in having that ice lake there in Buena Vista right next to the lettuce fields and so..”

Ron – “Yeah, I worked up on the ice lake there, too.”

Cara – “And so did you as well as pack lettuce. Did you pack lettuce and ice when you where putting them on trucks?”

Ron – “Yeah, they’d just cut it in the field and hall it in and leave it there in the lettuce shed and then you’d have a place to set a crate and there’s usually two people, one on each side and you’d trim it and put it in a—kind of a tray there, and then the packers where on the other side of the table and they’d pack it. When they got one full, well, they’d put ice in it and put the lid on it.”

Mary - “Another thing I just remembered was we had a lot of milk cows and I remember separating, there was a separator—it had a big bowl like that and then it had several cone type things like that and evidently the milk would go through that and then the skim milk would come out one way and the cream would come out the other and we would have great big cream cans, they were about this big, and they looked like they were aluminum, I’m not sure if they were, and big at the top and then kind of like that, you know, and I don’t know how many gallons were in it, but what we would do is we would separate that milk and then mom would take it down to the railroad and it would be shipped down to Pueblo, to a creamery or to maybe, uh, I don’t remember where else it would be, maybe Trinidad, but anyway. But then there was also a creamer, I think there was a creamer right here in Salida, but I don’t know if they made the butter, I think it was were Culligan’s is right now, but yeah, they would make butter and my mom would make butter, too.

Cara - “You’re talking about dairy cows, and we don’t have dairy cows much in this county anymore, it’s all beef cattle.”
Many people talking at once

Cara - “And was that because of pasteurization—that everything kind of conglomerated?”

Mary - “Probably.”

Grant – “More, at least in other parts of the country, the small dairy men went out when you had to have electric coolers.”

Cara - “Oh, okay.”

Grant – “That was a big capital investment. That’s what put Vermont, for example, out of the dairy business.”

Ron – “The ice lake that they had up there—that belonged to the railroad—American Refrigerate Transit Company. And when I worked up at the lettuce shed, they didn’t use ice from there, they’d get their ice from farms that had an ice lake that would put up ice in the winter. But out there at the ice lake, oh, in about January, when the ice got thick enough they would cut it and then it was, oh, probably a little over half a mile over at the railroad, where the ice house was, and they had a conveyor belt that went over there. They had the ice house and when it got full, they would bring the railroad cars in and we’d fill them and we’d send them on down to Pueblo. And they store it there until in the fall when they’d be shipping fruit that needed ice in the cars. And that’s when we’d empty the ice shed and just fill cars full and send them on down.”

Stacey – “We have a new member. Hello.”

Lavonna - “I’m Beth’s friend from the library, Lavonna Lathrop.”

Cara? – “Ron Little was talking about the ice sheds and the conveyor belt that would bring it toward the railroad track and that was all the way from the lake to the ice sheds on the..”

Ron – “Yeah, and the ice house was right there by the railroad tracks.”

Cara - “Okay, and that was pre-the movement of the highway?”

Ron- “No, it didn’t go over it, it went under it. Yeah, cause they had one line or spur there, by the ice house and that’s all they used it for was to load the cars.”

Stacey- “So the rangeland that you see here now, that was primarily dairy cattle as well?”

Mary – “No, no, there were probably three big dairies here and most of it was really—I remember as a child all the ranches around where I lived, up there, there were the Posteraros, they had several ranches, there were about 5 of the Posteraros. And then the Dalucas, which were my side of the family which was on one side of 140 and then I remember, we had, like I said, the cattle, and the alfalfa, and then we had just grazing land, too. And the grazing land for the summer would be up, my parents, my father, had hunter head of cattle permit to go up Mount Shavano. Below Mount Shavano, there’s like 13, 14, 15,000 acres and we would run a 100 head of cattle on it. Also were the Friend Ranch is, up in that area, Cotopaxi and Pass Creek, whatever it was called, I can’t remember what it’s called, they had a lot of grazing land up there, so in the summer the cattle would go out to the mountains and then in the winter they would come back because during the summer they would, you know, raise their crops.”

Barb? “And I remember talking to Wilmeth Everett, who lives right up the valley there and uh, they would drive their cattle and their horses up this way, by the granite crop up there.”
“They still do.”

Barb- “Yes, but they drove them like they did in Texas, you know. Now they take them in cars and trucks.”

Melanie- “That was the neatest thing about Chalk Creek, I think it was the hills—they would take their cattle up there for the summer and somebody else had cattle on Baldwin, um, but they would bring them back down in the fall, but all the private property owners up there used to get very upset because the cows would get into everything, but it was the neatest—like you were back in time a 100 years or better to watch them come down. And the Cogan’s still do that.

Conrad?- “I actually took part in a cattle drive this fall, we brought in 30 head from state land for a local rancher, our neighbor, I was on horseback.”

Stacey – “Where did you go, from where to where?”

Conrad. “We were actually bringing all the cattle back to the Rooks Ranch and the cattle were spread out on state land, not too far away—took four of us to bring back.”

Mary- “That reminds me, that was one of the greatest things that I ever did, and I did it from the time I was very small, we’d take the cattle in the spring, we’d do the branding, we’d do the little babies, we would castrate them and then put the rubbers on them or cut them—either de-horn them and then brand them. Oh, those poor little things, but then the next day, we’d take them up the mountains and we would push them with the horses and it was like 6 or 7 miles by the time we’d get there. And the babies were just like so exhausted and then we’d have to sometimes pick them up, put them in the truck, but that was one of the greatest things. And in fact, I did help the Everett’s this year push cattle again, as old as I am.” [Laughter]

Stacey – “Well, it sounds like a lot of you have been around the county and I guess what I’d like to do is ask everybody what their favorite places are. Do you mind if we just go around and say what they are (in Chaffee County)?”

Grant – “It’s hard to say where my favorite place is, I would have to admit that it’s probably where I live which is on 480 acres up against Mt. Princeton and it’s got 160 acres of Ponderosa Pine and Aspen and it’s very quiet and I can thank my wife for taking me there.”

Conrad- “I’d have to say that that’s my favorite place, too.” The other place is actually downtown Buena Vista because it’s so different than anything I’ve ever known in my life. I actually moved from Center City, Philadelphia one time to a place called Liddus, Pennsylvania, so that was the closest I got to a small town—but nothing like Buena Vista. I just love it. But I also have to say that we do have one of the prettiest places in Chaffee County, and we’re very lucky.”

Barb—“I like just any of the hikes where you can get up over the town, over valley, just look out, either from the west or from the east, just the view.”

Mary- “My favorite place is the ranch on which I live, where I was born and raised. I have a 360 of all the mountains. We have big, huge windows, so we can just see everything. That’s my favorite place.”

Beth- “I haven’t found any place that is not a favorite place in all of Chaffee County”

Lynel- “Yeah, there’s a lot of places that, I don’t know, I think probably 4 mile and 7 mile up around Buffalo Peaks, up in there. I’ve been hunting up in there a lot. I think it’s pretty nice up there.”
Cara- “I like a lot of hiking spots, but particularly I like the roads that go through spans of aspen, the one up to St. Elmo, the one up the back road there, Alpine, and going up to Cottonwood Lake. And then, the portion of the Colorado trail that you can get to from the Angel of Shavano Canyon Campground. About an hour’s walk in, you’re in the most amazing grove of aspen.”

Lavonna- “Well I’m probably the newest person here, living in Salida a little over 7 years. I was born in Kansas. Anyway, there are a lot of places some of which have already been stated. My kids built a house at the foot of Mount Shavano and I would hike to Squaw Creek and that was so—I just loved it down there. And I love the canyon, I just came through it day before yesterday coming home from Thanksgiving day, so I just. And I love Salida, it’s probably the—I’ve been all over Alaska included, and it’s a place that I delved into the history because I don’t know, it just hit me—the history of this place, it’s just fantastic.”

Stacey – “And would you mind, because everybody shared earlier, I would love to hear what brought you here.”

Lavonna—“Oh, basically my daughter, my youngest lives here, um, she has been here probably 13 years or so, and I was so far away from all of my children and grandchildren and my youngest daughter (of six children) was the closest to me in Kansas—not necessarily the easiest to get to, but the closest.”

Stacey- “Great. And Melanie, what’s your favorite place?”

Melanie- “Well, they’re all great. I love Salida, I love Buena Vista, not only for the places, but for the people that are there—that’s a big drive. And the architecture has always meant a great deal to me because it’s special, but hands down my favorite place is St. Elmo, which is up Chalk Creek, only because it’s quiet. And my favorite hiking spot, you know when you’re a teenager and you have to have a place to go away and get quiet—it was on Cottonwood Creek, where it forks up by the boy scout camp, but there are too many houses up there and it’s just ruined it! But anyway, but St. Elmo’s, so…”

Stacey- “Just like you said that your favorite place was up on Cottonwood Creek, and now it’s changed because there are too many houses, what do you see are the biggest changes in Chaffee County and can you, kind of, elaborate on what you think is the greatest change.”

Melanie- “Well, it used to be that if you where on the front range and you were shopping, you wrote a check for something and they’d say, ‘Oh, Buena Vista, where is that?’, and now it’s like ‘Oh, Buena Vista—I want to move there!’, And pretty much everybody that came and visited, and this is my opinion, in Chaffee County, has some kind of long-standing connection to someone that lived there, or some kind of connection with the valley. They weren’t driving in off the highway and saying, ‘Oh, this is a gorgeous spot. I want to move there.’ So it was kind of like a giant family, essentially, and in the past 20 or so years, there has been a lot of people that have moved here that have had no background information whatsoever on the county. I shouldn’t say whatsoever, because hopefully people study something before they buy a piece of property.”

Grant- “It’s all those damn foreigners.” [Laughter]

Melanie- “Well, no, we’ve had lots of foreigners, we’ve had, but it was like this basic…love, you know because you had to work to get here, because there was no train transportation. I mean, you had to drive over to get here and it was an ordeal. So, maybe that’s it. It’s too easy to get here now and we’re too close to the front range.

Lynel- “Well, a lot of places you travel out-of-state and they see your license plate for Colorado and they ask you where you’re from, Denver or Colorado Springs. We were up in Alaska in a parking lot and this couple saw the license and they came over and was talking to us and said, where are you, from Buena Vista? Because they had been here climbing the 14-ers.
“Oh big changes, oh big changes. My husband and I, well I left here when I was, well I graduated when I was 18, went to college, started working, and I would come back to see my parents all the time. But as far as actually living full time, I came back a year and a half ago and the biggest change that I see, and I don’t like it, myself, but that’s okay, is all these beautiful ranches that used to be just ranches are now all subdivided. And to me that’s so disheartening. But that’s the way it goes.”

Conrad “I think in the 15 years that I’ve been here—I love to walk, and when I’m not walking on trails I walk on the roads, but I could walk north of Buena Vista towards Game Trail and Four Elk and there were no houses there. There were not only no houses there, but there were elk, there were deer, and there was no traffic. And then, all of a sudden, there would be a car going 60 miles per hour down this county road and it wasn’t fun anymore. And I’m finding the same thing on our county road, 339, that all of a sudden, they’re houses here and houses here, which is why I’m involved in land use and smart growth, so I can help prevent that, or manage it, or something. That’s really made a difference to me because I thought it was all open and it’s not anymore, it’s not.”

Beth - “I can see a big difference in the way people have earned their living. When we moved in in 1970, people were traveling up to Leadville, they even had a bus that was running them up there and they were working hard. And the railroads were coming through here—we had lots of trains, what 9 or so a day in 1970. Now, here we are thinking about tourists and appeasing old people like us, and it’s quite different.”

Stacey – “Welcome.”

Alberta – “I’m Alberta Mitchell. I’ve lived here 81 years.”

Stacey – “And you?”

Flora - “I’m Flora Harrison. I’ve been in and out of the county for 50 years.”

Alberta- “It’s all different. I heard Beth talking about the railroads. I worked at the hospital for 40 years and most of the changes that are really evident with me are with the hospital. When I worked, it belonged to the DRG Railroad and then from there it belonged to a district because the railroad no longer came through Salida. They wanted to get rid of it and some of the, several men, put up the money and bought it and they had got funds from Haliburton. And the hospital has continued to change.”

Stacey- “What brought your family to Chaffee County?”

Alberta - “Well, my family lived in Leadville in the early days. And they decided to move to Salida. I had a grandmother that lived in Leadville and her and her husband had a saloon and a boarding house during the gold rush days. And then my folks moved down here and I was born here, in Salida. And my husband was born in Salida.”

Flora – “My husband couldn’t stand the Denver traffic anymore in 1956. The biggest change is just that it’s filling up, the vacant lots and the vacant hillsides—all the construction.”

Melanie – “Flora’s husband was a surveyor, so she was well acquainted with how wide-open everything was.”

Flora – “Yeah, lot’s of space. You could walk anywhere.”

Alberta – “Well, I don’t think I have a favorite spot, I think I like them all. I have to admit, I hate to see it get so big, it’s lost a lot of that little town. But that’s progress I guess.”
Stacey – “And Flora, what’s your favorite spot in Chaffee county?”

Flora – “I don’t know, I like it all.”

Stacey – “Well, let me see, have your favorite places been lost by housing?”

Melanie – “Housing and visitors, as in tourists, you know why. Flora for many years had a cabin in St. Elmo, and she can emphasize with how quiet and nice it used to be and how there are so many visitors now that it just detracts—if you’re trying to reside there and enjoy it.”

Flora – “Well, you know, at one time, you knew everybody and everybody knew you and it was a nice, friendly town, but I don’t find that way anymore. I can walk all over and not see people I know. I used to be able to go anywhere and spend a little time visiting with people. I don’t have that privilege anymore, because I don’t know anybody.”

Stacey – “And another question I have is, do you all lock your doors?”

Consensus = “Oh, yes.”

Flora – “Well, there’s been instances where it’s not wise to leave them open.”

Alberta – “Well, it’s been a few years ago now, there was a gal that lived over off 285 and she came home from playing bridge and there was a guy from Buena Vista who was waiting in her house and with gun point made her drive him to Pueblo. He didn’t hurt her, but he scared her. And so, yeah, I lock my doors, I don’t like surprises.” [Laughter]

Cara - “I know the police chief up in Buena Vista says the he wishes more people would lock their doors because he know how many of us don’t. And he says they have so much more to worry about than these older ladies.”

Alberta – “Well, you get a little relaxed and you live in this town and you think that everybody is okay, but it’s not that way. They were a lot okayer years ago. I lived down on 291 where I was born after the depression. We had a lot of hobos going through and of course they had to get off the train down where they call Cleora where there’s a cattle thing now. And they would walk up the highway and they’d always stop in and wanted something to eat. My mother never refused them. They would work if you had work, but you didn’t need to worry about them. All they wanted—they were hungry and she never refused them. We had a big garden and we had chickens and she could always fix a couple of sandwiches. But you wouldn’t do that now.”

Stacey – “So everybody here, from what I understand, that everybody lives here full-time, year-round. Is that right?”

Consensus = “Yes.”

Stacey – “Okay, and do you find that the majority of the people that are buying houses here are second-home owners or full-time?”

Alberta - “I think a lot of them are second-home. And I think that a big change I don’t like is we had busses and we had trains and you could go wherever you wanted to and whenever you wanted to, and you don’t have that privilege anymore.”

Stacey - “So, there is no public transportation in Chaffee County, is that right?

Cara – “There’s a shuttle van. From Salida to Buena Vista, but it’s by arrangement only—24 hour arrangement is the rule. But that’s there as a last resort.”
Grant- “Cara, is it heavily used?”

Cara- “More and more, mostly for doctors appointments. I know a lot of folks from Buena Vista use it for doctors appointments down here in Salida and then the last I heard there’s supposed to be a bus service that’s starting in January.”

Grant- “There used to be a bus, but until 1987 or so, ran through here to Denver, a Greyhound.”

Melanie- “I used to sell tickets for that bus.”

Lavonna- “I could take it from Wichita. The only thing, going back I’d have an overnight lay-over in Pueblo which was in the middle of the night. I’ve spent many a-time in the lobby, but they quit that.”

Flora- “We used to have one that went directly to Denver, but then after that we had the Greyhound coming from Grand Junction to Pueblo until two years ago. And they abruptly, on a Wednesday they just said it was the last day for the bus. You couldn’t even get to Boulder with them. We used to have busses going north-south, east-west.”

Alberta- “When I was a little girl, we used to have a lot of trains, two trains east and west, everyday. Plus [garble] that went to Grand Junction.”

Ron – “Well, that was a passenger train.”
Alberta – “And a lot of freight trains. That was the other thing I miss, the whistles.”

Lavonna – “Stu Brown is a friend of mind, and he’s a railroad man, and he said they’re negotiating with Union Pacific to get freight, the empty freight going west, that have already gone east filled with coal to a Pueblo coal-fired power plant. So, but, just freight—but there will be a whistle, I hope. [Laughter]

Stacey – “I know you’ve already discussed your favorite places, but what are you favorite views here in the county?”

Grant- “My favorite view is coming south on 285 and looking across the river at Joe Cogan’s. From Joe Cogan’s pasture, across the river, and down, looking at the mountains down here and I would hope that one way or another that view might be preserved from maybe buying what are called view rights and there is some action on that. It would be a major help to tourism, but it would be a major pleasure to me to be able to continue to see that for the rest of my life. And Joe, I think, is not interested in developing it, and as yet it hasn’t been saved, but I think there may be movement.”

Conrad- “We just need to work out the mechanism for it.”

Melanie- “I think that either on horseback, or on foot, hiking the Colorado trail and we come out on an overlook and we lookout on the Arkansas Valley and its one of those—you have to pinch yourself to believe it’s really real and you’re there. So, I think that would be west looking east over the entire valley and over to the eastern side.”

(old lady) “Well, I like that, too the view from the railroad grade down over the valley. That’s my favorite view.”

Mary- “Once again, it’s from my home because I can see from Ouray to Peta to Monarch Pass, Shavano, even part of Princeton. It’s just all there.”

“That’s my favorite view, too. We live on the mesa there, close to the golf course. Quite often, I’ll walk up to the golf course and look at whole range up there—nothing between me and the mountains. It’s gorgeous.”
Cara- “I have three. One is the one that Grant already said, Cogan’s meadow, the other is McMurry’s meadow just before 162 coming south on the highway, and then the other one is when you’re coming down Trout Creek pass and get the point in the curves were Mt. Princeton becomes visible, it’s breathtaking.”

Ron- “I think just out our living room window, it just frames Mt. Princeton.”

“Another pass with a great view is when you come is just after you come out of the San Luis valley up on Poncha Pass and you see the Salida and Poncha Springs area.”

Lavonna - “I think from Tenderfoot Mountain. You can see Salida—when I first moved here, I thought, my God, this is just wonderful and then if you’re looking towards the town and you turn to the right and you see the range. I especially like it when there’s lots of snow on it.”

Melanie – “I think several of mine have already been mentioned. Mt. Princeton, I have people, that I didn’t know it at the time that traveled in Chaffee County and of everything that they remember it was coming 285 and Mt. Princeton jumping out at them. But I would say twilight, to see the smoke-stack and the sun on it is just an incredible thing. The view that you get from being up on the continental divide and looking back down the canyons, that’s irreplaceable. And then just the whole landscape around Buena Vista and looking out towards Mt. Princeton.”

“One of mine is from Trout Creek that people have mentioned, but the other one is as you’re going north on 285 and you come down where the pipes are and you can look over the ranchlands there and back into the range—I just love that area. I don’t know who’s ranch that is, but it’s just a beautiful spot. That’s my favorite.”

Grant - “But keep in mind with that view that the ranch that you are looking at will be completely dried up at some point.”

“Next year.”

[All talking at once—heard “scary” mentioned a few times]

Flora – “A lot of the ranches are gone. Development has really taken over. Of course they’re really going to have trouble with water.”

Alberta – “Well, you know, when you’ve lived here 81 years, it’s all pretty favorite. But, I like up around Shavano, I guess. You walk out around Foster’s Lake and you look up that way.”

Stacey – “So, one thing that I think we really need to touch on is what are your fears of what will happen in Chaffee county?”

Alberta-“Well, I think part of my fear is already here. There’s no place in Salida to shop. You can’t buy a variety of clothes, you can’t buy dress shoes. There used to be so many shops here when I was growing up. I’ll be if I stopped to think, I could probably name 6 or 8 dress shops. And there used to be a men’s clothing store. I miss that.”

Stacey – “Do you think that’s the same in Buena Vista?”

“Worse.”

Alberta- “Yeah, you know, it’s all art. And of course I don’t buy art. I have a son-in-law that artist, why would I buy art from somebody else?”
Mary - “I fear for the water, and I fear that we’re not going to have any water. I fear that there are going to be just too, too many homes. I think that a lot of people that are coming into our area run across my ranch. 800 acres west and 800 acres north of us, it’s all development. I don’t know if they’re going to be able to sell their product—3500 acres for $250,000-$750,000. They will, I’m sure to somebody. I fear for the water. I fear that the whole community is going to be changed because you’re going to have 2nd homers who don’t really. I mean, they’re not making their living here and they’re not contributing one bit.”

Flora - “Now, this is a great concern. I have a friend that lived just down the road, Hwy 50 and Howard. And she’s lived there a number of years. Her well dried up about a year ago. And they had to get three different places before they struck water.”

Alberta - “Now, we’ve always had water restrictions here, even when I was little. We had watering hours. And water was never really in abundance around here.”

Conrad - “My greatest fear is definitely development. I grew up in a farm area in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. And while our farm was relatively small compared to the ranches here, it is all relative. And all of a sudden there were golf courses and trophy homes and shopping centers and the farm land was gone and it was so depressing. And I would do anything, in fact, I’m trying to do everything I can to prevent that from happening here. By saving the open spaces that are not just ranches, but it’s also state land, BLM, but it’s going already, very quickly, and it’s a tragedy, it’s really a tragedy.

Beth - “I fear that the wildlife, the animals are going to go someplace else, because we’re moving in onto their land.”

“Yes, I have a herd of deer all the time, how about you, Beth?”

Beth - “I can get up in the morning and there’ll be 6 or 8 or 12 and they just look at you.”

Mary - “I live on a ranch west of 140, and you guys have more deer than we do.”

Beth - “That’s true, that’s really true!”

[Lots talking all at once]

Mary - “We have elk, but we certainly don’t have any deer. We have a white-tail deer. She’s all lost.”

Cara – “I fear that the gap between the haves and the have-nots will continue to widen and the feeling of our community will change tremendously because of that. Because of the cost of housing, more and more people who are moving here, they have some means. But the people that are living here to support the community are working $7-$8 jobs and they can barely afford ramen.”

Alberta - “This is already a problem. They have a terrible time getting and keeping teachers. They can’t afford to pay them what some of the larger areas pay them. This is a real serious problem.”

Lavonna- “That goes along with education, it’s going down the tube because we don’t the funds, it’s going somewhere else and we know where it’s going, at least I do. I have a very good friend who’s a teacher here and will be retiring and I try to help in his programs, I donate every year to his programs, because I feel that is my duty because I live here and I want the town and the school to prosper. It’s very sad.”

“[Garble]. It’ll be a sterile community, like Vail or Aspen, and believe me, they’re sterile.”

Grant – “I’m the oldest one here, and I’m not as pessimistic as most of you are. I think we’re going to continue to live through it and still find it a pretty interesting place to live.”
Conrad - “I would have to add that at least in Buena Vista, that I have myself become very involved in the community and in the county. I see young wanting to stay here, and wanting to move back here and they too are really involved. I don’t think, I mean, yeah, I had fears of the development, but I do think there are some young people, and when I say young, I mean, in their late ‘20s and ‘30s that have become very involved at least in our community in Buena Vista—and making it a better place.”

Melanie- “Something that I’ve heard from several members of families that have been in the Buena Vista area for three generations and they’ve weathered through the depression and somehow with their business, they’ve made it through all those lean times. If they’re providing a service industry, with income coming in from tourists and stuff, they say, ‘Yes, we have more money in our pocket now, then we’ve had in years, or maybe, ever.’ But something they say is a big draw-back, they’re working so hard that they are not enjoying the community like they have in the past. And that’s an important thing, that’s why we all live here because you have a sense and love of the community. But to survive they’re working so hard that they’re losing that.”

Stacey – “Can we all take a look at your stuff.”

Mary- -brought a 1921 photograph of the Sons of Italy. Picture included her father, uncle, grandfather.
-photograph of her brother, dad, grandma, aunt
-baby photograph of her father (born 1900)
-picture of her parents from 1924, married at St. Joseph’s
-picture of her grandfather, father, two uncles, and Fred Cappelli
-picture of her grandfather
-picture of her father and Joe Daluca (brother)
-picture of her Grandpa and Grandma Valtree
-picture of her mother at 18
-picture of an old car that parent’s owned
-picture of her parents when they were first engaged
-picture of aunt, and mother

Cara- “Since I’ve moved here I’ve noticed that there are some differences between the communities and there’s so much that connects us, but clearly there are things that divide us and I’m curious what those origins might be.”

Alberta - “What little I remember, there has always been something between Salida and Buena Vista, and I think it really got cemented when they took the court house away from Buena Vista and put it down here. And I think that this has always been a sore thumb between the two communities, however, I think they’re better now. And the football has always been a rivalry.

Stacey – Thanked people for coming.
Lloyd Swedhin

"I’m Lloyd Swedhin. I’m born and reared in Buena Vista. My parents owned a small farm up there. We raised head lettuce. They had three _____ fields, about seven acres per field. We had irrigation water rights that my dad had bought about 1915 or so. It was a lousy water right, it was in 1889 in three feet of water. And the head gauge was up about where the drive-in theatre is now. That water had to come—and the farm was right there on the outskirts of Buena Vista, we were right near the cemetery. We had hay meadows were Ludwig’s Greenhouse is. Our house was on field six, it was on the main street coming out of town. And just about 300 yards outside of the city-limits. And I’m still living in the house. That’s my history. Now, water right, because I say we had a lousy water right. Originally we had a few hundred acres. We eventually sold all the property, kept what little where the house is, one and one/tenth acre. The land around the homestead place we sold to Ted Morgan, and he started a dairy and he was the one that acquired the water right. Well, he let it lapse, and now the town got it and I don’t know I think eventually, I don’t think there’s any right there. I was the post-master in Buena Vista, I had a good job, I was lucky and was able to make a good living. I belong to several organizations: the Lions Club, a mason, I was on the directional board of the health center, the medical clinic. In fact, I was the one that had the brain storm to get the thing started. Back in ’53, my wife got pregnant and we didn’t have a doctor in town. So she had to go to Salida to see the doctor down there. And I thought that was ridiculous. So I was a committee of one to see what I could find out. So I did. So whenever a doctor come to the post office, I got them off to one side and started talking to them, and found out what it was going to take to get a doctor in town. It came up that we had to build a clinic, so went back to the club and told them that. Well, a little later on Jake Foreman had this garage up there and every Tuesday he went to Denver to get stock for his garage and during one trip he got a hold of the State Board of Health. We set up a meeting and then said, ‘Okay, let’s go.’ So, we started a health center and got a doctor. Then, I was also on the original board that brought T.V. to town. T.V. came to town the same year that we got dial service—in the middle of March, 1956. The T.V. had one channel. The census of 1900 through the census of 1950 showed a population 1050 more or less, year after year. Then in the ’50s, that’s when Buena Vista started to grow. They built the new mill. In regards to water, I’m a very firm believer in water rights. Back in 1937, I think it was, my water supervisor up there said, ‘Everybody will have a measuring box at their headgate.’ Up until then, you just opened up the gate and let the water come. Well that ruined that for us, because that water had to come clear across the prairie. By the time it got down to us, there wasn’t much left. Well, in the past we were able to turn 6 feet of water, and because of that, we only had 3 feet. Well, shortly after that my father died and after I got out of the service, my mother offered the farm to me and I said, ‘Mom, I can make a living a hell of a lot easier than you and dad did.’ [Laughter] So, go ahead and sell it, so she did, everything except the little piece that I’m living on."

Moderator--“So you stayed in town? I mean you must of liked the town enough to stay all these years.”
Lloyd—“Well, I got another story there, too. Living right outside the city limits, one day the town was putting in a water line along side my highway and this guy was just outside my yard digging, and about that time a big buck was in my yard. The guy looked at him and really wanted that buck. And I said, ‘You want him?’ he said, ‘Yeah!’ and I said, ‘You can take him, I live outside of town. You have my permission—go inside my property line and shoot him!’ [Laughter] So he did! I had half the town out there. Since then I’ve gotten rid of four more of those damn things. [Laughter]”

Suzy—“The deer aren’t real popular in Buena Vista because, as they are in Salida, they get into everything.”

Lloyd—“I’ve got about 20-30 head of them, between my property and my neighbor’s.”

Moderator—“Suzy, you’re also a BV resident?”

Suzy—“But I’m not a BV resident as long as any of these ladies. I’ve been in BV about 60 years. I got here in 1948 when I was a little kid. So...”

Lloyd—“While I’ve lived here 89 years.”

Suzy—“Well, I’ve only lived here 60 and it’s my turn. [Laughter] Lloyd rode with me so he has to be nice or I won’t take him home. [Laughter] I’m Suzy Kelly. I moved here with my folks from Iowa cause my dad was in the second world war and he fought in the Alps in Bavaria and he was at Eagle’s Nest, where Hitler was, and he came home to Iowa and he said to my mother, ‘I’m moving to the mountains, they’re just beautiful,’ and my mother said, ‘No way am I moving to Germany.’ So we came out to Colorado and it was the funniest story, I was the only one that got to come, the other kids were too little, I was about 5. And, as we drove up through the canyon from Canon City, my dad stopped at a couple of places to look at a ranch. My father was a butcher and he knew nothing about a ranch. And he stopped at this ranch and he had bought cowboy boots and he put these cowboy boots on, and he walked around this ranch around Cotopaxi, and a rattlesnake struck out him, but didn’t get him because he hit the boot. So he got in the car and we drove to Salida and they said that yes, we have rattlesnakes, and then we drove to Buena Vista and they said no, that they didn’t have any rattlesnakes, and that’s where they actually bought a motel. So that’s how I ended up in Buena Vista—I could have been in Cotopaxi. [Laughter] And I graduated from high school up there in Buena Vista and I married Bryce Kelly whose folks had a ranch, now we have it, south of town about 3.5, 4 miles and I have three children, grown, two of them are in Gunnison and one in Longmont and so we have six grandchildren and I write history about Buena Vista and I’ve co-written three books about it. One is the history of Chaffee County, which is out of print and everybody says re-print it, but it’s real expensive, it’s a regular sized book, about 240 pages. And then I did a book on the Memories of St. Elmo, which Charlotte Merrifield gave me all the information because she lived up there from 1908 to 1914 and then just about 7 years ago, I did a book on Buena Vista: Tales from the Past. Some of them are real tales—you don’t know whether they’re true or not. I heard all these great stories, we interviewed, we had about 50 tapes at the museum—I’m a founder of the museum. We have all these great tapes we’ve done, and I was telling the ladies coming down that some of them are, ‘Now, you turn that tape recorder off, I’ll tell you this, but I don’t want anyone to know.’ Then I heard the best stories, you know.”

Moderator—“Are you still ranching?”

Suzy—“Yes, we are. 10,000 bails of hay I helped put up this summer. And I had to learn how to drive a new tractor, one which a rake that goes this way instead of the old side arm I was used to. But I learned, even though I’m sixty years old, I learned to run that new rake! [Laughter] Now, if I could just get the hang of that computer.”

Moderator—“What is your view of the ranching business in this valley?”
Suzy—“I’m afraid it’s suffering from development. I see, it’s just so hard for a rancher to make a living. So it’s easier just to sell off 40 acres here, 80 acres here. I’d like to see that stop and I think some of the best things we are looking at and some of the other ranchers have looked at is a conservation easement. Because then, maybe a 100 years from now your great-great-grandchildren will say, ‘Why did you do that!’, because you can’t do anything with it. But that’s one way to keep this valley, to keep that open space, I’d like to see a lot of that end.”

Moderator—“It sounds to me that’s why you stayed here.”

Suzy—“Well, I married a rancher and we stayed here. He taught school, and I drove a school bus and I’ve been here for a long time. He was a math teacher, which is a good thing, because I’m bad at math—I’m great with words. [Laughter]

Moderator—“Well, thank you, that was wonderful. Betty?”

Betty—“My name is Betty Farrington, maiden name Betty Wilson and I moved to Buena Vista in 1932 with my family. My father was a surveyor, building the new roads going north of town and also up Trout Creek. And so, I was in the eighth grade at that time, and so my high school years were there and I graduated from high school in Buena Vista. And from there, and I don’t know how much you want me to go into, but anyway, I attended school at the University of Colorado, but I did not graduate right away, because my father died when I was a freshman. I taught at the Gas Creek school between here and Buena Vista in 1938 and ’39 and then I went back to college and was graduated from CU in 1941. I married my high school sweetheart, Gus Farrington, the Farrington’s moved to Buena Vista in 1934 where Mr. Farrington was working at the prison, or reformatory at that time. And all the girls in Buena Vista where excited because Mr. Farrington had a family of three high school aged boys. [Laughter] But, on to college, World War II, my husband was a pilot, a B24 pilot out of Australia, and his plane was shot down on the way to the Celebis Islands and I was pregnant with my son, John. The plane was shot down in October of ‘43 and John was born in December of ‘43. [Silence] And, uh, I skipped—I taught two years at Erie, Colorado after I was graduated from CU and then, uh, WWII. And I ended up with the Farrington’s in Colorado Springs working at Ft. Carson after Gus was shot down and after the war I married his brother, William Farrington [Laughter] who had served in the war in the European theatre. So our daughter, Bill’s and my daughter, Margaret Farrington, who had taught in Buena Vista, with Norma, she was married to Tom Reno, for you Salida people, and anyway, where do I go from there? Let’s see, I taught, Bill and I went up to the Hayden Ranch, up by Leadville because he was a cowboy and ranch manager there. We didn’t own it. That’s at the foot of Mt. Elbert. That’s where they’re currently doing all this restoration. In 1954, we moved to the Denver area, because Bill became a brand inspector and worked out of the Denver stockyard. And I taught out at the Fort Logan, Sharing district for 23 years while he was a brand inspector. And we both took early retirement and we returned to Buena Vista 30 years ago. [Laughter] I just celebrated my 89th birthday along with Lloyd. We were high school classmates.”

Moderator—“What do you treasure most about the valley?”

Betty—“Well, it’s been home to me ever since I went to high school here. And my husband, also, we both really wanted to move back. And, of course, he was happy because he had he horses and his chickens and his goats again and we lived on the fringes.”

Moderator—“So the rural side of life, then?”

Betty—“Well, I wasn’t a rural person, I had to help with hay bailing and I didn’t know what I was doing, but it’s the scenery, the climate, and yeah, I guess the rural side, you’re correct there.”

Moderator—“But the history of all the families that have lived here, including yours, is very important.”

Betty—“I’ve got a real long history, yeah, and the local history and family history way back, yeah.”
Moderator—“Is it changing to your liking?”

Betty—“No, I was interested in what Suzy had to say about the changes about the development, and what Lloyd had to say. I have—I’m always mentally writing letters to the editor, and one of them is ‘Musings of an old lady who has too much time on her hands,’ and I make a list of all—every time I read in the Salida or Buena Vista paper, I make a list of the subdivisions, the new subdivisions. I don’t want to use the word ‘Aspenization,’ but you know what I’m talking about, it’s just breaking up the county, and what can you do about it, it’s just population, and they like it just like we do.”

Suzy—“Sad to say we’ve been discovered. I’d say 20 years ago is when it started.”

Moderator—“Is part of the reason people like this area, I mean, the fact that there’s 83% federal lands, open lands, is that?”

Lloyd—“Well,

Moderator—“A barrier against Aspenization?”

Lloyd—“Well, the federal land is pure forest and it, well I don’t know the exact percentage, but…”

Suzy—“It’s 83% if you count BLM, and state and federal forests, so it’s a very small percentage, which in one way is said, because the part that can be developed is the ranches and that private land. Although if you’re real smart, you can trade some prime property on the river for what used to be state leased land. That’s happened a few times, and I was like, ‘Whoa, how are they building a house out there?’ Well, if you’re shrewd..”

Lloyd—“I just thought of another development on our property, the drive-in theatre was on the top of my folks old..”

Betty—“Way up there, wow. We used to hike out to the Sweat Caves, which is the hot springs, where the Merrifield’s live now.”

Suzy—“The Merrifield’s actually bought those hot springs in 1913. And it wasn’t developed. As she said, you could go out there…”

Betty—“The original one, you could hike out there and there was a mine shaft under the highway, just past what was Jump Steady, and we would go into this mine shaft and there were these two slimy boards where you could sit and put your feet in this hot water and that was a big deal.”

Lloyd—“You only went in about three feet.”

Suzy—“The Merrifield’s use all that hot water for their greenhouses that live up there and they’re working on a development called Charlotte Hotsprings, they’re calling it after the mother. They’re just getting started.”

Moderator—“Okay, on to Norma..”

Norma—“Okay, well, I’m Norma Sandval, I’m 73, will be 74 pretty soon, and I was born at what is now Frontier Ranch, it was Roundup Lodge for Boys. They don’t have sign up there or anything that says, “Norma was born here, but…” [Laughter] “…I think they should put one. But, anyway, my mother came here to work at the old Mt. Princeton Hotel. She was a waitress, her sisters were waitresses and my grandmother was a cook there at the hotel they’ve torn down and moved away. That’s where my dad met her, he was working at the Boy’s Camp, which was Round Up lodge for Boys. It was only a boy’s camp then, rich boys and no girls, except me. My maiden name was Acree (A-Cree), my dad’s name was Al Acree, and my mother’s name was Grace Acree. And I spent my first couple of years in
school going to school in the camp in the winter-time, they’d open up a cabin for my brother and I. And it was he and I in school. And we kinda had like a private tutor and we got kinda far ahead, but my mother decided we needed to be around other children. She decided we should go to the Nathrop School, they’d drive us down there. There were 15 kids in that school and the teacher was Mrs. House. My decided since I’d been born and raised at a boy’s camp, that I didn’t know how to act like a girl, and she was right. The first day, I beat the livin’ soup out of George Roach III. [Laughter] I gave him two black eyes, a bloody nose, and tore his shirt. [Laughter] My dad was proud of me, but my mother wasn’t. I was in the fifth grade. On the way home that night, my mother said, ‘Al, I told you Norma didn’t know how to act.’ When I went home, mom sent me to my room and dad brought my supper in and said, ‘Good job, kid.’ [Laughter]

Moderator—“How long did that boy’s camp last?”

Norma—“Uh, gee, I don’t know, we.”

Lloyd—“1956.”

Norma—“It was bought by the Young Life Ranches.”

Moderator—“All those buildings in a circle, are they still there?”

Norma—“I don’t know, I haven’t been out there in a long time, so I really don’t know.”

Lloyd—“In 1953, when Young Life moved in, because I went back to the post office in ’53, and they’d just rented a post-office box to Young Life.”

Norma—“Well, we had moved then, we moved to the place that the Kelly’s have now and because the owner of the boy’s camp, Dr. Mark, bought the ranch, and then we left and moved away to where I am now, about 8 miles north of Buena Vista and on a ranch that’s one of the first ranches. And this is where I really come in with the history thing. There’s one thing: I taught for 30 years in Buena Vista, and most of the time I taught history. [Laughter] And Colorado history, and lots of local history. And so that was my big interest. And the ranch I live on right now, about 460 acres and it was one of the first ranches up there, it even has it’s own little cemetery and everything. Riverside is where it’s located, it’s uh, started by Francois Mill, it’s on Frenchman’s Creek, and the reason they call it Frenchman’s Creek is because of him—he came from France. And he came in 1863, that’s when the ranch was established and he decided to mine the miners. He didn’t find much gold there, but he realized the miners needed food. And he grew potatoes and raised cows and sold beef and potatoes. And he sold potatoes for 80 cents a pound, we understand. And he made more money than most of the miners. And he would loan money at 25% interest.”

Moderator—“Was the boy’s ranch where you grew up, was that the Byrd Fuquay?”

Norma—“Yeah, Byrd Fuquay had started it, and then Dr. Mark bought it from Byrd. And then..”

Moderator—“How does the Love Ranch fit into this?”

Lloyd—“There was a—Mark Love and Joe Love, but anyways, Byrd Fuquay was there almost at the entrance to Chalk Creek, in fact it’s where Silver Cliff is now...”

Norma—“Well, it was the Young Life, but now it’s owned by another Christian Group, I don’t know what it is now, but it was part of the Young Life. Young Life only owns part of Frontier Ranch, which was Round Up Ranch. The Christian Science Camp that you’re asking about, that’s up north of town, that’s Adventure Unlimited. The Christian Science Camp is up at the base of Colombia.”
Lloyd—“Byrd also bought this piece of ground above, at the start at the Sky Valley. Sky Valley and then Byrd bought that. And then they sold it to Andrews, who was the founder of Sky Valley, and then Round Up became the Round Up for Girls, and the Sky Valley for Boys. And some years later, it became co-ed.”

Female voice—“They had different cabins and each cabin was named after a bird, like Robin.”

Female voice—“Was she from this area?”

Female voice—“No, she was from St. Louis.”

Female voice—“She was quite an eccentric character.”

Moderator—“Did you guys, did anyone know her?”

Lloyd—“Oh, yes, I did. In fact Byrd—the wranglers that worked for her, they went out one day and roped a mountain lion and brought him to town. And they had that lion on display in this yard for sometime. And then she shipped the lion back to the zoo in St. Louis and named it Buena Vista.”

Suzy—“We have pictures of that. Yeah, that’s in the history books, that story.”

Lloyd—“And then that cowboy, he told the people were he wanted to be buried, by that lonesome pine, up by Silver Cliff ranch. His name was Lee Dylan, he’s up there under the pine tree—those boys carried him up there.”

Moderator—“Now who was he?”

Suzy—“He was a cowboy that worked for Byrd, he was a wrangler.”

Moderator—“Now, Byrd, did she have two husbands?”

Lloyd—“Well, she had a husband back in St. Louis. In fact he told her, he was a wealthy man. And he said, ‘Okay, you want a resort out there, go ahead, build it! I’ll pay for it.’[Laughter] So she did.”

Female voice—“I think he wanted to get rid of her. [Laughter]”

Moderator—“But she ended up living here full time?”

Lloyd—“Oh yeah, she lived here year round. She was buried out there in the cemetery. She’s buried in a lonesome grave in Bueny. I’ll take you right to her grave.”

Female voice—“Suzy, you can be Byrd at next year’s cemetery tour! [Laughter]”

Lloyd—“Well, I’ve almost volunteered to be the undertaker, because my uncle was the undertaker back in the 1880s. And he had this big, black hearse, with a team of black horses and he would dress up for a funeral in his frock and tall hat. And after the funeral, he would collect his money and then his wife would go get drunk on beer. [Laughter]”

Moderator—“Was he on your father’s or mother’s side?”

Lloyd—“On my father’s side.”

Moderator—“What was his name?”

Lloyd—“Tom Doyle.”
Moderator—“Well, we better move around the table here.”

Jody—“Well, it won’t take long, I’m not a speaker. My name is Jody Poplan Wilder. I was born in Buena Vista in 1933. We were neighbors with Betty’s family. Betty was my babysitter. And my great-grandparents were the first settlers in Buena Vista Mahon. They had the property on Cottonwood that is going to be the meadows. And they had the first water rights that belonged to the Mahon Ranch in 1864. Martha and James, it used to be named after them, Mahonville. He came with his brother, Hugh, from Ireland. James was born in Ireland in 1833, he died in 1896. He and Martha were married in 1878. Martha Mahon was my great-grandmother and she died in ’36, I was three years old. I often wonder if I sat on her lap and was out on the ranch with her.”

“Jody, may I interrupt real quick—I was told that the original name was McMahon, and that they dropped the Mc because of the Irish connotation at that time.”

Jody—“Yes, that’s true.”

Moderator—“Was there a large group of Irish that all decided to settle in the same area?”

Jody—“I don’t know. She was from Missouri, I believe. And he had met her and he went out and came back to get her. He was quite a bit older than her. And she thought that she was going to have to come out here to nothing, but he had a little house, four room house, and that house is still out there on that ranch. They started their family of ten. And my grandmother was Annie Poplan and she was one of the ten. As I say, I was born in Buena Vista, moved to Granite, spent most of my childhood in Granite. Let’s see, then I went to high school, road the bus, came back down to Bueny. Road the bus, a lot of my friends and I road the bus together. Then I married a man from Kremmling. We settled in Leadville, so don’t talk about Leadville. [Laughter] Because I do love Leadville.”

Female voice—“But you notice that when you retired, you came back…”

Jody—“We came home. And home is from Buena Vista, I do love that valley.”

Female voice—“I was in Leadville yesterday and it snowed sideways, and I thought, thank God, I’m out of this God-forsaken place.”

Jody—“I know…I have three children, 8 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.”

Female voice—“How long were you in Leadville?”

Jody—“Most of my married life which is 57 years.”

Betty—“Jody’s dad, Kelly Poplan, he worked for the state highway department, and that’s why there were Granite and Leadville and Independence Pass and all that. He told me one time, after we moved back to Buena Vista, that the original Buena Vista post office was not in Mahonville, it was on West James, where those big pine trees are. And I don’t know if you can visualize that or not, but it’s not where everybody thinks it was. And I always wondered about that and figured that he knew, that that’s where the original post office in Buena Vista was.”

Lloyd—“Well, I’ll tell you where the first post office was. I always thought it was out at the Mahon Ranch. But it’s on, well, the house is gone now, but it was next to where Josie Foreman lived.”

Suzy—“Sadie Dearhammer named Buena Vista. That’s in the history books.”

Jody—“And my grandmother suggested that they call it Collegiate Peaks. And Sadie suggested Buena Vista, so that’s what they picked.”
Suzy—“She must have been pretty.”

Jody—“Yes she was, but I hear my great grandmother was, too, so that’s why I’m surprised! [Laughter]”

Moderator--“We better move along…”

Tim—“My name’s Tim Glenn, and I was born on the outskirts of Salida. My family dates back to 1898 and that was on my grandmother’s side and her name was Lunnan, and her parents were concrete/cement contractors in Salida. And then the Glenn family came from Missouri, and they settled on the outskirts of Salida on what they call the Big Bend of the river and they purchased that ranch in 1902. And that, of course, is where Zebulon Pike had Christmas dinner in 1806—that was my family’s ranch. And, unlike Lloyd’s family, my family always had very senior water rights, so we didn’t have to worry about getting our water, we just had to worry about spending a lot of money so nobody else did. [Laughter] And then, my family—my grandmother and grandfather where married, I’m not sure when, but…”

Moderator—“What was the name of the ranch that Pike stopped in?”

Tim—“Well, at that point in time it was called the McCalmont place. They always called places places in Salida, you know there was the Hutchinson place and there was the…but it was called the McCalmont place, and then after that it was called the Glenn place forever and then it goes two owners back and then they refer to it and the second owner back and then when it gets a little further removed, they call it by the next one, two removed. But my father was born in 1922 and he and Lloyd worked together. Lloyd was the postmaster in Buena Vista and my dad was the assistant postmaster in Salida. The ranching business was hard, and all of these folks know—it was very difficult to make a living at it. The Glenn family was in the dairy business when they were on the ranch. But they couldn’t support all the family so my great-grandfather, J. I. Glenn, decided he needed another job and he went to work in Fairview Cemetery. That was in 1902, when he first came to Salida. And the folks that know me, now that’s my history is in the cemetery business. And in 1902, he decided to take his two sons with him to work in the cemetery, and that was my grandfather Clarence Glenn, and my great-uncle, Louis Glenn. And they started buying up shares of the cemetery in 1920 and, eventually, we ended up buying ownership of the cemetery. And that’s were I was born and raised, I wasn’t raised next to the cemetery, I was raised in the cemetery. And I grew up on the property, my mother still lives there. My wife and I built a home down below on County Road 160, it’s all part of the cemetery property. And the cemetery, actually, has senior water rights as well. It’s got the most senior water, a portion of it, on the South Arkansas River. The Herrington Ditch, which we own with Salida, they own the majority of it, and we own a small portion of it. 1866, that’s the most senior right on the South Arkansas River. That water right was claimed by O.E. Herrington, who was actually one of the original stock holders of Fairview Cemetery. They were original, there were 50 original stock holders of the cemetery.”

Suzy—“And so did your family buy out all the other stockholders of the cemetery?”

Tim—“Yeah, actually, I ended up buying out all of the other stock holders that my grandparents and great-grandparents were not able to buy out. So we actually did buy the entire interest in the cemetery and then I purchased the funeral home, which goes back to the late 1800s, it belonged to the Stewart family, and even the Wence family before then. And so all of the families just kind of grew together as it went on. We do own, the cemetery actually owns the funeral home now. I own the cemetery, and like Lloyd’s grandfather, I’m the undertaker. [Laughter] Actually I don’t spend a lot of time in that business, but we do own those businesses. Currently I’m a county commissioner, and my great-grandfather J.I. Glenn was a county commissioner. He used to have to go to meetings in Buena Vista—I’m lucky, I go here. But don’t own the ranch out on the Big Bend anymore, but we still do own property there at the cemetery.”

Moderator—“Is that still a ranch, That property?”
Tim—“Yes, it is.”

Moderator—“It sounds like we have two distinct generations and I think Ray, you came in a little bit late, but we’d like to hear from everybody.”

Female voice—“I would like to hear from Ray because he has Buena Vista background, too.”

Moderator—“Right. I think, we have a half an hour...”

Ray—“I’m Ray Perschbacher. My roots go back to when my grandfather first came to Salida in about 1902. He worked for the railroad. Then he left and got married while he was gone and wound up in Gunnison. And went to work Christmas Day 1906 for what was then the Colorado and Southern, which was a subset railroad to the Denver Southpark Pacific. And he ran out of Gunnison, up clear to Como, until they shut that off. And then when they closed the tunnel down, the Alpine Tunnel, he moved to Buena Vista.”

Moderator—“What year was that?”

Ray—“About 1909 or 1910. Well, actually, he lived in a place or two before he wound up in Buena Vista. He wound up in Buena Vista, of course, by 1912 and then moved to Denver in 1924. When did they shut the railroads down, ‘26? So about 1926 they moved to Denver, because my dad was a senior in high school and he graduated from high school in Denver. And then came back to Buena Vista. So there’s been Perschbachers living in this valley for a long time.”

Moderator—“And the railroad association ended with your father?”

Ray—“My father didn’t work for the railroad.”

Moderator—“Your grandfather.”

Ray—“My grandfather worked for the railroad and retired in 1946. He was working out of Leadville when he retired and then moved to Buena Vista. And then died in Buena Vista. My uncle, Leonard, worked for the Denver Rio Grande, out of Salida, here. And I never had any interest getting into railroading, nor did my father. Why? Do darn dangerous for me. [Laughter] I mean, if you want some idea of what it was like in those early days, just go over to the library and start reading some of the early 1900 issues. And see how many issues of those papers on trains—got killed, or lost limbs, or something of that nature. It was pretty dangerous work, extremely dangerous.

Lloyd—“Ray, you talk about the dangers of the railroad. Your uncle lost his wife in the train wreck back in 1926, there at Granite.”

Ray—“Just between Granite and the Twin Lakes turn-off, there was a bad wreck in there. I think either ‘27 or ‘29, and were killed in that wreck. And I’ve never done any research to find out how many later died because of their injuries.”

Female voice—“I’ve wondered that, too, Ray. Because there were a lot of injuries, and there was one lady, I think they had to cut her legs off to get her out, so I think there were a lot of people who survived, but then died two months later.”

Moderator—“So what business where you in in the valley?”

Ray—“Well, my dad bought a grocery store in Buena Vista, my dad and uncle in about 1930. And they named it the Buena Vista Market (garble). And in that building, there had been grocery stores there for many years before that. And my dad ran that for many years. And then I bought my uncle’s interest in that business in about 1951. And then my dad and I sold it in 1956.”
“And did you sell to Art Starbuck?”

Ray—“We sold to Art Starbuck. That’s right. But anyway, there was a store in there for many, many years. That building, incidentally, to be a store by a historic Buena Vista family, by two partners actually, Dean and Brown.”

Female voice--“Is that the store where the video store is now?”

Suzy--“Yes, that store on the corner there.”

Female voice--“And I have a question. I was in high school from 1932-1936. There were three Perschbacher brothers, were you one of them?”

Ray—“No, I wasn’t, the oldest one was my uncle Leonard, who later worked on the railroad. My father, John, who ran the store for many years. And then Uncle Earnest worked for them for a while and then in the late ‘30s moved to Denver and was an accountant for Sterns Rogers, a construction company. He retired sometime in the 1950s.”

Female voice--“I think it was Ernie’s wife that was my Sunday School teacher, then.”

Ray—“Could have been Arlene. “

Moderator—“So you’ve lived in the valley your whole life?”

Ray—“Well, I lived in Glenwood Springs about two years. But I was going through Buena Vista twice a week the time I lived in Glenwood Springs. I had a wholesale produce business, and I delivered produced to Buena Vista.”

Suzy--“And the highways were a lot different, weren’t they?”

Ray—“I should say they were. A bunch different. The first time I went over Loveland Pass, for example, with a truck, it wasn’t paved. It was gravel road going over Loveland Pass and there was one curve down on the east side of the pass that trucks and busses had to back-up in order to get around the curve.”

Lloyd—“I remember that damn pass. The army took me from Fort Logan to Camp Hale and I went over Loveland Pass in the middle of winter, in February, and there’s two curves up there, that you had to back up for.”

Suzy--“How long would it take for you to get to Denver from Bueny?”

Lloyd—“Now?”

Suzy--“No, in the 1930s or ’40s.”

Lloyd—“I made a trip back there with a man that had an open-canvas car Studebaker in 1932 or 1933. And about three hours.”

Suzy--“You must have been driving pretty fast. I hope it wasn’t a dirt road. [Laughter]”

Lloyd—“The worst of it was Trout Creek. Going over Trout Creek we got into a (mumble), I remember that. And he drove under a tree because he was afraid of his canvas top. So he drove under a tree and waiting for the (mumble). I recall that one.”
Suzy—“Back to Ray, I want to know what you did after you sold the grocery store in Buena Vista, then what did you do?”

Ray—“I was with Eric Glyson, I was in the field with Glyson for about 20 years.”

Moderator—“So you probably know everybody in the whole valley.”

Ray—“Not anymore.”

Female voice—“We can’t say that anymore, can we?”

Ray—“There’s too many new people.”

Lloyd—“Well, I got down the street now and I get, ‘Hello, Lloyd,’ and I think, ‘Who the hell are you?’[Laughter]”

Ray—“I have the same of the same feelings that Suzy does about this growth. I’m not looking too kindly on it. But it’s the general over-population of the country, which is only going to get worse. But I can’t figure out why more people didn’t pay more attention to some economic professors who 30 years ago had a theory and idea that areas could have economic prosperity without growth. And that would be very interesting to know what their ideas were.”

“Where were they from?”

Ray—“I don’t even remember what universities they were connected with.”

Moderator—“So some of the ranching, I mean, some of the people in this group have ranching, mining, railroad, agriculture, and what are the prospects for all of those continuing?”

Suzy—“Well, the railroad’s pretty dead, and mining’s pretty dead, and Tim, correct me if I’m wrong, but they still are maintaining those tracks. There’s always the prospect that they might start up again.”

“It’ll be tourism.”

Tim—“They stay pretty protective with those tracks. Anytime somebody wants to cross them, whether it’s the county with a road, they deny that. So obviously, they intend to have some use of the tracks at some point. For what purpose, I don’t know.”

Female voice—“What I heard is they would have to keep them maintained and open because that’s the only way for the military to move large things on that railroad to the coast. So that’s why they make sure that it is continued to be maintained.”

Moderator—“So when did tourism kick in, as far as your memory, or being a big factor?”

Ray—“Ever since I can remember, tourism has been a major factor here. See you talk about Byrd Fuquay, see I remember her pretty well. And I remember where her house was that burned down.”

Moderator—“Did you like these people coming, with all their wealth?”

Lloyd—“There’s one thing that I remember back in those days when I was growing up. Back in those days, the only thing you saw in those papers was the Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak and Colorado Springs and all that. And I said to myself, I said, ‘Someday, they’re discover Buena Vista, and then look out.’”

Moderator—“What were your favorite places that have been discovered now, or haven’t?”
Suzy—“Well, we’re not going to tell you about the ones that haven’t. [Laughter]”

Lloyd—“Well, there’s very few high altitude lakes that I haven’t been to. I can only think of two that I didn’t go to.”

Suzy—“What two didn’t you go to?”

Lloyd—“Bear Lake, and the other one was Englemeyer. I tried to find it one day, but I couldn’t find it.”

“Paula, would you like to talk?”

Paula—“I’m Paula Schermer, my husband, Chris, and I moved here 35 years ago. We wanted to get out of the rat-race of the big city. I’m a newbie. I was born and raised in Wheatridge, outside of Denver, and our family converged here from all over. And my mom and step-father moved from Texas to here. My, originally, my sister-in-law had moved here to work as a lab technician at the hospital. And brother, who was her husband, came with her. And then my other brother and his wife moved from Denver to here. And my sister and her husband moved from Texas to here. We all just fell in love with the area and the recreation that was available and the beauty, and the hometown quaintness. And the backwardness that was refreshing. And fell in love with the area. We raised two kids here and my son was the first one to be born at the Salida hospital naturally. And, I remember, the doctor just didn’t understand why any man would want to be in a room where his child was being born and we had to sign off on all kinds of waivers that the hospital wouldn’t be responsible if he fainted or something. So Zack has that distinction. That was in 1973. And we moved here to raise our kids, we wanted to move somewhere that was safer and saner.”

Suzy—“Did they stay?”

Paula—“No, as most kids they have to move away and come back usually after they’ve established and bring their livelihood with them. My son married a native of Buena Vista, Jackie Hassel, but my daughter met someone in Denver and he’s from Cape Cod, so. I think what brought us here, there were a lot of people that converged here at that time and we wanted to get away from the rat race and stuff. And what brought us here was the home-town feel, the community feel. In that era, if the kids were getting in trouble, you just dealt with it. And now you just call the police. And it’s a different era. But before, nobody had any money here, so you just traded work or whatever you could do, you traded, because nobody had money. And I think it was more of a community spirit.”

Moderator—“You think that’s gone?”

Paula—“Well, not necessarily. It’s different, not necessarily gone. I mean, Katie, her and her husband came into town and they’ve done immense things. And there’s been a large number of people over the years that have done a lot of volunteer things. And I see good things about the growth and I see bad things about the growth. The bad things are: well, yeah, there’s stop signs everywhere, where before, you didn’t, you know. There was a lot more before, you could walk your dog down the street without a leash, stuff like that. And you can’t do those things anymore, there’s a lot more rules and regulations. I remember years ago if you wanted a sign, you put the sign up and now it takes months and a structural engineer to tell you where three bolts go. [Laughter] So, those are the things that you give up. With growth, there’s all the regulations and stuff like that, but recreation, you can’t beat it in this area, and raising your kids in this area. My brother was real instrumental, well all of my brothers, Chris, Jack and Tom in getting them to recognize the beauty of the downtown. And, I remember, the biggest comments—there were a couple of families that owned the majority of the downtown and their biggest comments were if you rented from them they’d say, ‘Well, you don’t like it, we’ll just tear it down and make it into a parking lot. That was their favorite comment as landlords. And in that era, everybody shared the bathrooms, because there’s only a few bathrooms in the buildings downtown. So everybody would just kind of share. I remember when we first moved here, the whole town smelled like oil.”
furnaces because that was the major way everybody heated their homes, and it just stank. It was in your clothes—the whole area. If there was one house that burnt it on the block, you could smell it everywhere. So the differences…but people would trade then and I think they were more trusting. If somebody wanted to borrow something, you could loan it to them. You didn’t have to worry about being sued if they got hurt on it. Just the regulations, I think, are what have made the big changes. But the good changes are there’s culture in the area, which there didn’t used to be. When we first moved to the area, it was boarded up, busted windows downtown. Nothing had been painted or appreciated in years. If the bus depot wanted a building downtown, well, you just tore two buildings down to take care of it and replace it with a cinderblock one. I mean, that’s how they dealt with their beautiful buildings that they didn’t appreciate at that time. Also, most of the people wouldn’t paint their homes because they were afraid that it would raise their taxes. So, I mean, it was a pretty poor town, but I think that’s what made it lovely too. That it didn’t have so many rules and regulations.”

Norma?—“You know, one thing I forgot to say is that I still have my ranch that my folks had, all 460 acres, and my daughter swears that she promises not to turn it over to developers. Of course, if I’m dead and gone, I won’t know. [Laughter] And she has promised that she is going to keep that ranch. Cause, I mean, it’s very old. It was established in 1863, it’s extremely old, and I hope that she’ll keep it that way—that’s our plan.”

Lloyd—“I’ve got two sons. And they’ll have the argument between themselves when I’m gone. In my will, I’ve given it to both of them, but my oldest one says, ‘I want that place because it’s been in our family since 1907. And I think it should be in our family from here on out.’ My other son, he just sees the place in dollars. I won’t be hear to see what happens, but I but you…”

Ray—“Well, I have vivid memories of having grown up in that grocery store downtown. I was pretty little and times where hard. And I almost literally cut my teeth on a shelf when I was tacking cans of beans one time. So I spent a lot of time down there. And I remember some of the classic characters that were in and out of that store. There was Bill Harper. He went to the post office every morning and got the mail and then met the morning train and the afternoon train. And put the mail on the mail car. Got to Buena Vista off, and took the mail the post office. The rest of the time he would just walk up and down the streets. Then there was Mrs. Kruger that ran a hardware store. And I have some memories and funny stories about her. And there were quite a few old-timers around town that were wounded or injured vets from WWI. They had been gassed. And life was a struggle for these guys. There was a guy by the name of Taylor, with a big family, there was Bert Peas. Then there was Dan Noga that lived out west of town, he’d gotten T.B. while in the army and was getting payments because of that—and it was a struggle for him.”

Moderator—“How many people worked for the prison?”

Lloyd—“Well, when it was a reformatory, there was about 30-40, but the population was around 100.”

Female voice—“When was this Lloyd? How long ago?”

Lloyd—“Back in the ’30s.”

Male voice—“When I was in high school, we used to play baseball with them, and softball. Softball, baseball, and basketball with the inmates out at the reformatory.”

Suzy—“It was formed as a boy’s reform school, in 1898, and then it expanded and now..”

Ray—“They used to send long term prisoners up from Canon City to Buena Vista. There was one guy there for several years who worked as a cook for the Warden’s family, cause the Warden lived out at the institution. This guy was quite a cook. And he had a car that he could use to get groceries, and when he needed them he would jump in the car and come to our store. I think it was probably when
Warden Thomas first came there. It might have even been before that. I remember when the guy would come in, he was always dressed in white cooks clothes. And he had a pretty nice car.”

Jody—“I found it really interesting that most of the history of the territorial prison is down in Canon City. Almost all the information, instead of having their own place for people to come and see and their history, it’s all down in Canon City.”

Ray—“You know, years ago, they had a guy run a small grocery store down in Canon City and he had a safe that was kind of cranky, and once in a while he would have trouble getting it open. One morning he couldn’t get that safe to open, so he called one of his buddies over at the prison and he said, ‘I’ve got a problem—is there someone over there that can open my safe for me?’ And the guy said, ‘Yeah, I’ll be over there in a few minutes, we’ve got quite a few over here that can open that safe.’ So, in a few minutes, one of his guards showed up with one of his inmates in tow and the inmate fiddled with that thing for a few minutes and popped the safe right open. The grocer was quite gratified, and he said, ‘Well, geez, what do I owe you for your service?’ and the guy said, ‘Well, for the last one, I got 5,000 dollars and ten years!’[Laughter].”

Female voice—“Another quick reformatory one, sorry ladies, at the reformatory, my sister-in-law, she was in high school and she was four years younger than I. And Bob Johnson, the son of the warden, who lives in Buena Vista now, wanted to date her. And she didn’t want to, this is word of mouth, but she felt she had to because her father worked for the warden. But they, whenever Bob had a date, one of the prisoners would drive him into town and take them where ever they were going.”

Jody—“One story that I’ve got, my brother’s were instrumental in getting them to appreciate the downtown, and painting the buildings and this and that. And I remember one time that they offered one man that they would paint his building if he would just pay for the price of the paint. Well, the guy would only offer white paint, and my brother said, I’m sorry, we don’t paint white. So they didn’t paint it. [Laughter] They wanted him to bring out some colors and some features of the building and all the guy wanted to do was…”

Moderator—“Are they still around, your brothers?”

Jody—“One of them is, yes. I have two of them—one past just a few months ago and another a few years ago, but they were the ones involved in bringing the art community to this area.”

Suzy—“What were your brother’s names?”

Jody—“Byers. Pres Byers, Tom Byers, and Jack Byers. So they were real instrumental in bringing a lot of the culture to the area all those years ago and movies that were brought to the area. And little by little we’ve clamored for anything from out of the area to stimulate us and get people involved, you know, meeting socially and this and that. And I think that’s what’s come a long way in this area.”

Moderator—“I’m amazed, just at having worked on the project for a few months, at how many groups there are, historic and cultural organizations. For this sized town, there really are a lot of them, it’s amazing. Alright, Betty, you’re last, I’m sorry.”

Betty—“Oh, that’s okay, because I’m a newbie, also. My parent’s grew up in Denver. They fled the urban blight in ’64 for Leadville. And this was during a time when the Climax mine was on strike, dad worked for public service. And my sister tells about seeing people in line buying dog food because they had no money to buy food for their family. I mean, it was hard times when the mine went on strike and I’m sure Bueny got the brunt of that, too…”

Jody—“Well, Salida too, Cigar Charlie’s. People used to buy any Purina project for a quarter, as long as they said they would feed it to their animals. And they had geese that would meet you at your car, and you couldn’t get out until Cigar Charlie would come out and call his geese off you.”
Betty—“Then my folks moved to Leadville and I married Kenny Plotz, was his name, he was a lawyer in Leadville and he got appointed as public defender down here and then we lived in Twin Lakes at the time, when we were in Leadville, we lived in Twin Lakes. And moved to Salida. And then mom and dad moved down a few years later. Both my kids were born and raised here and ’76 was the year that we moved here. And then I got a divorce and I had to find gainful employment after that, so I became a caretaker for one of the historians around here—he was an older man who was kind of blind and deaf. And had given several talks about history and his family had been here since the 1860s. Hutchinson. And his brother worked in Buena Vista, he was the sheriff there for a little while. Anyway, he got me going on history and I have just loved learning about history. You have to mention that the whole thing started in Centerville—it was the first place that was settled. And it’s the great three: mining, ranching, and the railroad that…”

Female voice—“There was Cash Creek at Granite, too.”

Betty—“Yeah, that’s where Hutchinson was. But, that’s just the history of this county, see, it basically started there—people moved out and then the settlements of Salida and Buena Vista and then…there are several settlements that are gone now. And then one thing that I thought of that I think has been one of the main things where the world, and the United States discovered Colorado, our part of Colorado was after WWII where soldiers returned to Colorado Springs, and boy they liked it when they stayed in the mountains over there so they really zeroed in on this area.”

Lloyd—“Well, the 10th Mountain, that I was a part of with those guys. It started mainly with the Ivy League people, they were the first ones that came here. If you got in to the 10th Mountain Division, you had to have three letters of credit to get in. Yeah, three letters of credit to become a mountaineer in the 10th Mountain Division. You bet, we were elite! It was a hell of a fight to get the mountain troops started. And fella, Mini Dool was in the ski patrol back east. When these fellas came up here and found this snow and it was so much better than the snow back there, they said, this is it. So, all of the ski resorts around here were started by the 10th Mountain Division.”

Female voice—“Well, there’s one thing that I would like to say, I know people have mentioned it, that growth bothered them, in my situation, I just think that we’re lucky it didn’t happen sooner, because it is a great place to live. In my own family, I have two sons that live here, a daughter that lives here and if it wasn’t for building, they wouldn’t be here and so we’ve really been fortunate, I think. And I belong to a couple of organizations where there’s lots of new people. They’re really very nice people, and I’ve enjoyed, it’s kind of expanded my life by knowing them and the cultural things have just been wonderful—I know I really missed an orchestra and that kind of thing when we moved here, and Buena Vista, too. And I can’t—I did want to say something about the reformatory—I took my Psych at Pueblo and there were two policemen that were patient there and one of them ended up in Buena Vista in the reformatory. And I had a call one day that this man wanted to see me that was a prisoner up there, he’d been transferred from Canon. And they both had murdered someone. Anyway, I spatialed his girlfriend, who was a local teacher, and the guard came down to question us, and I was outside of the room. And he asked me a lot of questions I didn’t want to answer. Anyway, he has since been paroled to California, and I think he works for the government, actually.”

Moderator raps up, thanks, explains importance of their participation

Tim—“You asked earlier if there was anything that we were missing. One of the things that I’ve seen in my time is how much the appreciation of the riparian corridors have changed over a period of time. When I was a young man, the river was nothing more than something to take water out of and utilize for irrigation. And if it was washing away your land you throw and old car in there to keep it from washing away. And that’s the way it was. And once in awhile someone would go down and fish and once in awhile a kid would get in there with an inner-tube. But that has totally changed, it’s now become an absolute critical artery—all of our main river systems, whether it be Chalk Creek, or Trout Creek, or the Arkansas, or the South Arkansas and I think this community, we’ve begun to appreciate
the value of that. Not only for irrigation, but all the other things that those water courses bring with them.”

Lloyd—“I subscribe to Pueblo Chieftain and I enjoy, I’m glad that we’ve got that paper because the editors of that paper fight tooth and toenail for the Arkansas Valley. Colorado Springs and Aurora are fighting to get every drop of water out of our rivers that they can. And they are succeeding. They are succeeding. Aurora and Colorado Springs owned all those farms down there and they’ve dried up how many thousands of acres just for the water?”

Female voice—“So how can you say that one little rancher up here can have six acre feet of water, the cemetery gets all this water when people down in the front range are starving for water.”

Suzy—“What?!”

Tim—“Tell them to starve! [Laughter]”

Lloyd—“A rancher up there has sold his water to Pueblo. Gary Hill sold his water.”

Suzy—“That’s a frightening thing that we might see happen, maybe not in our life time, but maybe our children or grandchildren. Where the front range, with all their population and they have to have all the water. ‘You can’t water your field or your cemetery, and we’re taking your water.’”

Tim—“Well, that’s the issue we will fight.”

Moderator—“Thank you all so much!”
List of Participants
Jean Hanfelt
Danny Wood
Stanley Provenza
John Bayuk
Pat Warner
Jane Ferraro
Clifford Pierce
Ladonna Pierce
Ed Lambert
Ruth Lambert
Joe Cogan

Jean--“My name is Jean Hanfelt, I’ve lived in Salida for 41 years. I do not have any family living in the area, I’m a transplant. I live in Salida.”

Danny—“My name is Danny Wood. I’m a sixth generation living here in Chaffee County. I’ve lived here my whole life. My family goes back to 1865. I live in Poncha Springs.”

Stan-- “My name is Stanley Provenza and I was born raised here. I was gone for awhile and came back. My family came here in 1897. I live in Salida.”

John—“My name is John Bayuk. I’m a native, I was born here and I left 20 years to go play some football. I live here now. My grandparents, I think, go back to probably the 1800s, but I’ve never gotten into that.”

Pat—“My name is Pat Warner. I live in Salida. I was born here in 1918 and my father came here, who was a dentist, in 1900.”

Jane--“I’m Jane Ferraro and my maiden name was Provenza. I was born and raised here, born in 1924 and my father came here from Italy. My grandfather also settled here, he was a miner in Lake City and settled here in 1908 and of course my mother was born in Lake City and moved here in 1908. So my brother and I, the two of us were raised in Salida. I was privileged to marry a man who, also, was born and raised here, Bob Ferraro. And his dad and my dad were both tailors and were in business together at one time. And I do have pictures to show that. I raised seven children here and am very happy to have resided here all these years and I still live here on 1347 G. And when we built our house, we were the first one on that block, the whole area was vacant at the time. So we have progressed some.”

Clifford--“My name’s Clifford Pierce and I was born in Pueblo, Colorado. My parents moved here in 1935. And I live in Johnson Village and Buena Vista’s in the area where we live.”

Ladonna-- “I’m Ladonna Pierce, I’ve lived in Johnson Village since 1957. My father came to work at Climax in March of 1957.”

Ed—“I’m Ed Lambert and I live in Buena Vista. I’m a foreigner. 1950 is when I came out from Iowa and we’ve been out in Buena Vista ever since. Married Ruth, here, whose been here a long time. We live on Main Street.”
Ruth—“I’m Ruth Lambert and I’ve lived in Buena Vista since 1934. Most of my life. I have lots of memories, but we don’t have pictures with us today.”

Joe—“I’m Joe Cogan. I’ve lived here all my life. I live on a ranch 4 miles south of Buena Vista. My family didn’t come any where near as early on as the Wood’s family, or the Burnett’s. [Laughter] No, my grandfather came here in the ‘70s, and brought the family in 1883. My father didn’t marry right away, so consequently our family—a big family, there were seven of us. My father was 57 when I was born and my mother was 41. So, uh, we’re scattered out. My folk’s have well over a hundred descendents now and not one has died by accident or gun-shot, or anything else. [Laughter] It’s quite a feat that that many of them are okay.”

---------------------------------[Recording skipped]

Moderator—“So, in the introductions, we heard a little about the subjects that we’re interested in, you guys are already right on topic. We want to try to gather memories and your thoughts about really important people and places in the county. So your personal recollections and memories are important. And opinions are great, we want to hear what you think are important. What are some of your favorite places in Chaffee County that have meant something to you over the years?”

Jean—“Well, I came to Salida in 1966 with Frying Pan-Arkansas Project Bureau of Reclamation. I just think that that’s a very important part of Chaffee County, because the Frying Pan-Arkansas Project began in—the main offices were in Pueblo, Colorado. The construction office for the first two years was located in Glenwood Springs. And this was the collection system—water that was going to be brought from the Western Slope to the Eastern Slope. I think that they were projecting about a 20 year project. And so after building the Roodaden Reservoir on the West Slope, then they were looking for a place that was more centrally located because a lot of the projects were going to be done here, because Salida really went out to bring in this wealth of people and employees to the area because I think about that time, in 1966, the railroads were in the process of shutting down, although mining and ranching were still very strong. So, 40 families were mass-transferred to Salida which made a very, very big impact economically. And the project, I think we closed construction on it in 1984 and the Fountain Valley Conduit, which was the last remaining job was finished out at the Pueblo office.”

Moderator—“And were you working for...”

Jean—“I was working for the Bureau of Reclamation, yes. I was born in the San Luis Valley. My father went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1945, so I grew up in Wyoming and I never dreamed that I would end up in Colorado so close to aunts and uncles and cousins. So uh, that’s what brought me to Salida.”

Moderator—“Does anybody here have any railroad connections? Anybody’s family come here for the railroad?”

Jane—“My uncle, George Naples, was a brake-man and he worked from Denver to Salida—he was one of the older members, I think he worked on the railroad for over 50 years. And, uh, he was all railroad, I’ll tell you. [Laughter]”

Moderator—“And, uh, so it was a sad day when the railroad?..”

Jane—“Very sad, he happened to take the last trip from Salida to Denver. I had four children at the time and he took them on the last ride from Salida to Denver. But that railroad was so much fun. We’d stop under the Royal Gorge every time we went down the canyons. And it was more fun to get out, every time, and look up at the Royal Gorge. The train was a very integral part of our town at the time, it really made the town. And my dad and my father-in-law were both tailors and they made suits for all of the railroad men because they had to dress in blue suits, so they were quite busy as tailors.”
Moderator—“So, were those uniforms? Official uniforms?..”

Jane—“They were uniforms, but the men at that time also wore dress suits, shirts and ties. So the tailoring business was really, not only for railroad men, but also other people.”

“Tell them about the blue suits they used to make.”

Jane—“Blue serge is what they used to make for the railroad uniforms.”

“Real hard.”

Moderator—“Yeah, durable, wool. And what were your father and your uncle, what were their names?”

Jane—“Well, my father’s name was Fred Provenza. Actually it was Provenzano, but he shortened it for business purposes. And my husband’s dad also was a tailor and at one time they were in business together and then they separated businesses. They must have been tailors here, oh, for just many years.”

Moderator—“When was, I’m trying to think—I took a jacket to a tailor years ago and it might have been.”

Jane—“They both learned the tailoring business in Italy.”

---------------------------[Recording skipped]

Stan—“He belonged to the Rag Rand Band, Moe Strauss, my uncle. This is a picture of the band.”

Moderator—“Tell us about the band, then, a little bit..”

Stan—“Well, it was formed by the Rag Rand, and they had other people with the band, of course. They used to have concerts in Alpine Park. They had this place where they had this band stand and they would play every week in the summer time there. And it was quite neat for children to go over and sit in the park and behave themselves like they should. [Laughter] So, it was real nice.”

Moderator—“Was it during the day, or evening concert?”

Stan—“It was set during the day, or evening from about 5 o’clock on, until about 8.”

Moderator—“Would people bring picnics?”

Stan—“Some did and some had their own chairs and sat around. Some brought blankets and folks would communicate with each other, you know.”

Moderator—“And Alpine Park is just..?”

Stan—“The upper park on F Street between 4th and 5th.”

Moderator—“Well, Danny, could you tell us, because it sounds like you have some of the most venerable family that goes back the furthest. Tell us a little bit about how they got here.”

Danny—“Well, they come out of Canada, and they went to Arkansas, they was timbering in Arkansas. And then they went up to Leadville, working up at California Gulch in the mines. And then in about 1865 they decided to come down here and start ranching. And, they were the first white settlers to ever live here. And his name was John Burnett”
Moderator—“Are there any stories that stand out for you, favorite family stories?”

Danny—“Well, his wife Sarah Burnett, when the Indians would go on their war-paths, she would feed them biscuits. [Laughter] So, you know, they wouldn’t bother her. [Laughter] So, all the other people would come to her house, women and children, and they would stay with her, because they knew that the Indians wouldn’t bother her.”

Moderator—“Now, are those Utes?”

Danny—“Yep, Utes.”

Moderator—“And do you have any idea what the leader of that band was?”

Danny—“Colorow.”

Moderator—“He was a colorful character.”

Danny—“Yup, he was the mean one.”

Moderator—“And where was the homestead, where did they settle?”

Danny—“In Poncha Springs, a mile west of where the Hoover Ranch is now. I own 70 acres, part of the original place.”

Moderator—“And how about the early buildings on the homestead? Are any of them there now?”

Danny—“No, when Dr. Hoover moved in, he tour them down, nothing’s left.”

Moderator—“Well, as long as we’re going back a-ways, do you want to tell us about your family coming here?”

Joe Cogan—“Well, my grandfather came here as a laborer from Ireland. He was a fugitive from Ireland—a fugitive from the British in Ireland. He belonged to a resistance group called the White Boys. And the reason they called them the White Boys was because when they would get into devilry, they would pull their shirts over their head and run for it. No matter how much the British would torture anybody, they could never get the name of anybody that was in it. But they claimed that they could drop any bridge in Ireland, because they’re all made of stone. And they had a fulcrum with steps on it and a lever and they bragged that they could take any bridge in Ireland out in two minutes flat. So, my grandfather had a price on his head and he heard that the soldiers were coming, and he told my grandmother that when they got to the spot in the road, that he was going out the back door and that she would hear from him in America. He didn’t have to go that time, because the neighborhood turned him in and he was taken by the soldiers and marched off and we presume he denied being Jeremiah Cogan until the noose tightened on his neck. But it got too hot for grandma and he went to the big metropolis of Nathrop. Nathrop had three saloons, two grocery stores, two pool halls, a bowling alley, and a hotel. So it was quite a place. If you look around there’s foundations everywhere you look. But he got in trouble with his wife because he saved a calf along the railroad, he didn’t have any cattle—he saved a calf with a broken leg and it got going were his wife worked in the boarding house to feed to train-men at Nathrop. And she gave him the ultimatum—either the calf goes or you and the calf go out in a box. So, he went three miles up the river to what’s known as Coganville, now and bought 120 acres from a fella there that had homesteaded. And we’re still there. One high-brow lady came from the south and said, ‘Those Cogan’s are just po, white trash and we can’t run ‘em out.’ And they haven’t yet. [Laughter] We still enjoy being po, white trash.”
Moderator— “I don’t know, I think we think of you early homesteaders as the patriarchs. So what year was that when you moved on?..”

Joe—“They bought the ranch in 1889. But my father came here in 1883, as a five year old, his father was here quite a time before that because my father was the result of him going home to Ireland once. You have to understand, all you had to do to go back to Ireland was to change your name until you came out, and that way you would be set by the authorities.”

Moderator—“What part of Ireland?”

Joe—“County Cork. My grandfather went to school there, and being a sea-faring area where they were, they weren’t sea-farers themselves, but if you gave him a date in the year, he could tell you which part of the year the tide would be high and when it would be low, just by the date of the year. And I don’t know how it was done, but he did and my father never figured it out, either.”

Moderator— “Anybody else have families with early homesteading stories to tell?”

John— “I guess, at least this is how they were told to me. Though, I can’t say whether they’re genuine or not. My grandpa came from Austria. He was a big land-owner, had his own army, or type of an army. He had 12 wives. Well, he was a big land owner, so I ‘spose he had a girlfriend here and there. I don’t know, that was a little before my time. [Laughter] And I didn’t know all this until, in 1956, I was playing for the University of Colorado and we went to the Orange Bowl. And my wife and I were up the room, just kind of resting, and I get this phone call from a guy by the name of Julian and on the trips that I took, in football, there wasn’t any [garble] available. But this guy was a doctor in Florida and my dad was the only that couldn’t put on that tree, the family tree. One of my grandpas sat on the spring court.”

Moderator— “And how did he get to Chaffee County from there?”

John— “I don’t know, he could have walked across his wives, I guess. [Laughter]” This goes back to when I was just a little guy. Some of the things that I can remember that my grandfather did was, he was not proud of this, but it is what it is, but he was a big boot-legger.”

Moderator— “So this is during prohibition.”

John— “Yes. And my aunt, Mary, she would take the whisky and take it down to the penitentiary and put it in a tunnel and if the money was there, then she left the whisky. And the tunnel’s still there. But, supposedly the FBI, this place was real popular—most of the doctors went there to drink.”

Moderator— “Now the penitentiary, are you speaking of ours here, or somewhere else?”

Joe Cogan— “In Canon City. When my father used to drive by the Bayuk farm, north of town, on the old 285, he’d say, ‘That’s old bootlegger, Bayuk’s place.’ [Laughter]”

Moderator— “Now where is this farm, can you describe where the farm is? On 285?”

Joe Cogan— “The Old 285”

Moderator— “And where is that, exactly?”

John— “Well, I guess it’s below Joe Cogan’s and kind of in the middle, what is that?”

Joe Cogan—“It’s about even with the dump.”
John— “Well, he used to own both sides of that, before that road was cut in there, so he owned both sides of it and he was growing cabbage, I guess that was his side business. And would take it to Leadville and when my dad was three years old, or in the third grade, he pulled him out of school to work with the cabbage. I was going to say that a lot of the doctors that were here. But they would go up there all the time and my grandma would fix a big dinner and they’d drink a lot of whiskey.”

Female voice—“And ate a lot of cabbage, mashed potatoes and chicken.”

John— “Well, anyway, supposedly, this is kind a hard to believe, but this is what is told, the FBI came in and got on the ranch and arrested my grandfather. And supposedly, I think that this is kinda, but supposedly, he couldn’t put any money in the bank, so he had it in the (garble) and when they found it, it was a million dollars. And that I don’t know, all I know is they lived quite well, kinda drove the better cars in those days. But, I guess, that’s about all I want—I don’t know when he come over, you know, they probably ran him out. I was never real close to them. Well, when I was down there in Florida, at the Orange Bowl, then I get this phone call from a Julian Bayuk and that was neat because I had never seen another one. Um, my dad was one of the only ones that he couldn’t finish the tree with, he didn’t know where he was, so I filled him in on that. Um, they were, and I never did understand this, but between all those wives and everything, some of them are Jewish and some of them are Austrian. The Austrians were the poor ones, I guess and if you look back the Philadelphia Cigar Company belongs to my Uncle Mark. Um, so I got that done. My father, as I said, was pulled out of school when he was in the third grade and my dad had all the mines around here.”

Moderator—“Okay, so does anybody else have any family connections with mining? And so we heard about cabbage and cows, any other agriculture?”

John—“Whiskey”

Moderator—“Oh, yeah, what was he growing for the whiskey—grain?”

John—“Well, that’s how he got caught cause, you know, it took sugar, I guess. But he made quite a bit. When he was caught by the FBI, or whatever they were back then, he spent some time in the penitentiary. And, you know, that goes back, I think, 75 or 100 years. But anyway, at 100 years, I get a phone call from one of the girls down there at the newspaper and she said, ‘There’s an interesting article,’ and I said, ‘Oh, what’s it about?’, and she said, ‘It’s about your grandpa going to jail!’ [Laughter]”

Moderator—“Now is that the only bootlegger we know of in here?”

Joe Cogan—“No, one of my relatives—during the war there was a man that came from Canada, he was an old-country German, he was and he’s name was Charlie Teely. And he set up which is what is now the Chalk Cliff Fish Hatchery. And he had bees, he kept bees. Well during the war you could get unlimited sugar to keep your bees through the winter so that they would make more sugar from the honey. So Charlie got all the sugar he could get and he took it to Bill Benedict who lived up at the hot springs. Bill Benedict made the hooch, and then they sold it through an establishment in Buena Vista—the daughter of the owner is still alive so I don’t want to divulge [Laughter].”

Moderator—“Well, maybe we should talk a little bit about Johnson Village.”

John—“Well, basically some of these things were told to me, I knew my dad had the mines—he sold one to General Chemical and he sold one to Reynolds Aluminum.”

Moderator—“And where were the mines?”

John—“In Salida.”
Moderator—“And what was he mining?”

John—“Feldspar. But anyway, I’ll go back, as a child, I was interested in football and I was very interested in guys like this guy, you know, when I was just a snot-nosed brat.”

Moderator—“And why’s that?”

John—“Well, you know, these guys played football and anybody in this room, from Buena Vista to Salida, I mean, that’s a war. Back in those days, and correct me if I’m wrong, but they would play, cause I played Pueblo Central, Pueblo Centennial, Canon City, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Durango, I mean, that’s where we played football. I mean, now they don’t do that. The best two teams are Buena Vista, and I’m not sure if Salida’s in it this time. But anyway to sum it up, I played football here, for the Salida Spartans and uh, I made All-American. I was the only All-American out of Chaffee County in the 20th century. Went to the University of Colorado on a full-scholarship. That’s the only way I could go, my dad couldn’t afford to send me up there. And, uh, not bragging, but I made All-American at CU, so I’m the only All-American that’s ever come out of Chaffee County.”

Moderator—“Were you going to say something?”

Stan—“Yeah, uh, relating to John Bayuk, we had a kid by the name of Chambers that went to Northwestern and he made honorable mention All-American there and he became captain of the team. Outstanding football player, I played football with him. We won three state titles—‘33, ’34, and ’35, we won 39 games without a loss. And Coach White was a Northwestern graduate, very outstanding person. I have to tell you a story about it—he would never let us eat candy, only after a meal. And we couldn’t drink water during the game, if we took a sip, we had to spit it right back out. [Laughter] So he was a disciplinarian. And I went into the service and it was a breeze after that. [Laughter] It was highlight in my life—I really thought it was wonderful to be part of that time. We had an outstanding time. One fella was shot, Briton, he had scholarship to Rice Institute, which was a strong team in those years—I think he would have made All-American, like John did. Because he was not very tall, but he was powerful—he was about 5’10” and his legs were so big at the top, at the thighs, that he would take his pants down to the tailor shop and have inserts put in into the back.”

Moderator—“But you said, was this the war? You said he was shot?”

Stan—“No, actually, he was shot by Coach White, which was really devastating. Coach White left right after that.”

John—“Rabbit-hunting.”

Stan—“Yeah, they were rabbit-hunting in the valley—it was an accident.”

John—“Let me say one thing before I forgot, because I might forget. One of the best the things that happened to me as a youngster was to live up to what Stanley and those guys were doing. I guess when you see Stanley right now—you’re not very much bigger, are ya? You know, this is a guy—you just couldn’t imagine just how tough this guy was. So I said to myself, ‘If I can be as tough as Stanley, maybe I’ll be alright.’”

Moderator—“So, what position did you play?”

Stan—“I played quarterback.”

Moderator—“So you could move.”

Stanley—“Well, in those days, the quarterback was the only one who could call signals. I have to tell you a story about chambers. Couch White, I was a sophomore, and he sent me into the last quarter,
and he said, ‘Whatever you do, don’t throw a pass.’ So I says, ‘Ok,’ so I went in and the only guy that could talk in the huddle was the quarterback so we were outside the huddle, and Chambers says, ‘Throw me a pass so I can beat that guy,’ and Coach White had told me not to throw a pass. And he says, ‘Come on, throw me a pass!’ So I threw him a pass and he went for a touchdown and I didn’t know which way to go after the game. [Laughter] So finally Coach White caught up with me and said, ‘Good thing it worked.’”

Female voice—“Back to the football and the railroad, whenever they had a game here, all the stores would close and everybody would go to the game. And if we played out of town, they rented a special train—from here to Canon, from here to Pueblo, and that train was loaded with fans. Everybody in town closed up.”

John—“Canon City could not beat Salida in 34 years. And that was a big school when we were playing.”

Stan—“Red Hickey was the coach down there and he had a son that was the halfback down there. And he was red-headed, too. While they were beating us 14-6 at half time and he made a touchdown just before halftime and he thumbed his nose and he went over to the goal-line, you know, and you should of heard Coach White at half-time—I thought the gym was going to fall apart. We went out and beat them 19-14.”

John—“Tell them about the leather helmets.”

Moderator—“Well, I think we better, in the sake of covering everybody, let’s talk about Johnson Village for a moment. Okay, so this is going to be, what, Johnson Village in the ’30s?”

Ladonna—“Oh, well, we haven’t lived there that long, we’ve only been there since the ’60s. I think my dad bought his land from John Johnson in 1957 or 8.”

Male voice—“John Johnson owned most of Johnson Village, didn’t he?”

Ladonna—“Yeah, John Johnson had bought up land on both sides of the highway.”

Moderator—“And so what was there when your family moved in?”

Ladonna—“Well, there were several gas stations down there, because when we moved from Iowa and the gas the gauge was getting lower and lower as we came from Colorado Springs—we drove all night. And so, we would look on the map and say, well, there’s Garo, and then there wasn’t anything in Garo…and we finally got to Johnson Village and there were several gas stations down there and because Climax was going and people were using gas a lot. And I think there was one motel.”

Moderator—“Dinner Bell?”

Ladonna—“And the Dinner Bell, and the Westerner that burned down.”

Joe Cogan—“It was probably about ’48 when they got a restaurant and a filling station there, probably about ’48.”

Moderator—“And what were you doing for a livelihood in Johnson Village?”

Ladonna—“Well, my father worked at Climax and then after we got married we bought a piece of ground there, but we didn’t there, well, the ’60s, I guess. So..”

Moderator—“So, for residential, you weren’t working or farming, or have a business?”
Ladonna-- “No, just work”

Clifford-- “Well, I washed dishes as a kid, when it was the Westerner.”

Ladonna-- “And when we got married, he worked at one of the filling stations in Johnson Village.”

Moderator-- “Which one was it?”

Clifford-- “Chevron, it was the Chevron station.”

Moderator-- “Is it still there?”

Clifford-- “No, they’ve turned it into a rafting company. A guy by the name of Louis Miller started the station, well, there was just an itty-bitty log thing there first. And then when I started there he built this metal (garble)”

Moderator-- “Originally the Westerner was log and so was this gas station. So, Johnson Village looked kind of rustic, I guess, then.”

Clifford-- “I can’t remember exactly what was there at that time—probably just the restaurant and the station and the motel.”

Moderator-- “Well, Ed and Ruth, what do you want to tell us about?”

Ruth-- “Well, we didn’t own any property or anything like that, but there were 10 of us when we came to Buena Vista, 10 kids plus my parents. And we hadn’t lived here anytime at all when my dad got Scarlett fever, and so did one of my brothers. And so the cops the came to the door—you couldn’t just get welfare like you can today. And dad asked if someone in town could bring us groceries. And mom was just so tired of moving, I mean, she’d moved all her life. And the cops said, ‘Well, we’ll feed you now, but then we want you out of town, because we’re not going to feed your family.’ And mom that they was the best thing they could have told dad because he would never move after that. [Laughter] Well, they didn’t want him there.”

Moderator-- “And this was at a time when things were pretty lean.”

Ruth-- “Oh, yeah, it was during the depression years. Yeah, it was pretty tough for everybody. And there was, oh I don’t know, at least four or maybe more families in town that had 10 or 11 kids. It was a struggle for everybody, though, it didn’t make much difference whether you had a lot of kids or not. But the correctional facility, or the reformatory in those days, that’s where people worked. (Garble) But, my brothers all grew up to be mechanics, basically, but they worked at different places except Clarence. He was probably the best diesel mechanic for many, many years.”

Moderator-- “Your family name?”

Ruth-- “Swanson. And then, oh I don’t know, I have a lot of memories of things like the ice house. You know, they used to cut the ice there and take it into my brother’s house, my brother’s were there in the winter, and then in the summer they would work in the lettuce fields a lot, you know, they were young teenagers—they would work out in the lettuce fields. Oh, Stinky Davis used to live up four mile and he lived close to the ice-house. Somehow that was quite an attraction for young kids to go see what was going on—maybe there’d be a hobo in the icehouse—you could go home and say, ‘Oh he scared us to death,’ or something, you know? One day we went down to Stinky’s, we thought he had a clock, and we could see what time it was. And we went down there and he was looking at the sky and we didn’t know what he was doing, and he said, ‘From the way the sun is, I’d say it’s pretty close to noon.’ So, he didn’t have a clock, and we thought he could tell us for sure, but…”
Moderator-- “And what did he do?”

Ruth--“Well, I don’t know what he did and where he got his money—he walked to town. He was an interesting guy.”

Joe- “Talking about nick-names, Clifford used to run with Tommy Crowcum. And they didn’t come home when they were supposed to and Cliff’s mother said, ‘Boy, your name’s mud.’ So he’s always been known as Mud Pierce around here. [Laughter] Ask anybody where Mud lives, they know.”

Male voice--“They used to grow so much lettuce out of here, that they used to fridge it out of here. Used to put it in crates and ship it places, remember that?”

Female voice--“They packed it in some of that ice sometimes, to keep it cool.”

Male voice--“You know when I was a kid growing up there, it was just right over by the railroad house, there, just by the town hall. They’d pack lettuce there. In the later years.”

Male voice--“They used to have a Lettuce Day Parade, up there, didn’t they?”

Female voice--“Yeah, they used to have a rodeo…”

Male voice--“I think they started that in 1921, or 1922.”

Female voice--“I don’t know that was before my time.”

Male voice--“And they had a free barbeque with that—a celebration, yeah, a real celebration.”

Ruth--“When Ed came out, he bought the Veerman place and we lived there when we were first married.”

Ed--“Well, I met her at a dance and here I had three little kids and I’d come out of Iowa and you were at that dance and I think her folks were ready to shoot me, but…”

Ruth--“I don’t think so, I know he says that, but I’ve never heard anyone say that—not family anyway.”

Ed--“But anyway we started going together, and she took three little kids in fact one of them’s down here as a teacher, Ed Lambert, and he’s one of or sons.”

Clifford--“I think when my dad first come here in ’35, we lived all up and down the valley there, from Buena Vista, north in different places. And he worked at the Lin Harvey mine, up on Harvard, he worked at the reformatory and he worked at the boiler room down at the reformatory and it blew up and burned him pretty bad—I can remember a lot of stuff that I don’t think pertain to this stuff.”

Stan--“I want to tell you a story about how our highway is built. The old highway used to run along the railroad track from Wellsville down to Cotopaxi. In the ’30s, they started building the highway up here, through the canyon and that’s how the road got on the other side of the tracks, the other side of the river. And they built over Monarch at that time, too. And it was engineers and the highway department that did that during the depression years.”

Moderator--“Now, was that paved at that point, or?”

Stan--“They paved it on the other side, yes. But before that, it was all dirt road.”

Moderator--“It made a big difference then, in terms of travel down to Canon City.”
Stan--“Yeah, when you traveled down the canyon, you brought a kit with repair in it and a pump—
cause you always had a flat tire.[Laughter]”

Danny--“And more about that road—in 1871, they named it Poncha Wagon Company, and they
started out from Canon. And built the road up through—I guess the original one to start with, they
started it in Poncha, then they tied it up in Leadville, then it went to the San Luis Valley. And there was 4
or 5 men that did it—I can’t remember their names. I mean, I’ve got it at home. But they had a 12
year contract to build that road.”

Moderator--“One thing, Alan Robinson has gotten real interested in the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean
highway history.”

Joe Cogan--“I can show you a place on a rock that is painted P.P.O.O. It’s on Trout Creek, you’ll
have to get me to show it to you—there’s not too many people who know where it is. But it’s right by a
road, and I’d be glad to take you up and show it to you.”

Female voice--“There used to be a telephone pole, or an electric pole—down on the other side of Bear
Creek. And it had a metal sign, P.P.O.O. And when I was a little kid, they had that.”

Joe Cogan--“I wonder why it would be there and also on Trout Creek, you’d think that they’d gone
over Monarch or somewhere like that.”

Moderator--“Is it east of Salida?”

Joe Cogan--“Yeah, east.”

Moderator--“I think actually it had two routes over Colorado, because, you know, you could go
northern, or come southern. So it might have to do with that. I bought a brochure on EBAY a few
years ago and it’s the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean guide book. Which is kind of interesting. So I have
the map and there is a split in Colorado. I don’t know what should be done with that sign on the rock.
It’s been there all these years, but it’s on a shady side where the sun won’t bleach it or anything. So all
it gets from radiation is reflection. It’s in very good condition, but it is on a rock. I’m always afraid that
some fool will come along with a rifle and say, ‘Hey, I wonder if I can get all that paint off.’ Bang,
bang, bang, you know?”

Male voice--“Joe is it down there on the old highway?”

Joe Cogan--“On the little old dirt highway, in between the cement apron, where you cross at the castle,
and the cement bridge above where you come off the highway.”

Moderator--“So it’s up by the castle?”

Joe Cogan--“It’s on the left side of the road as you’re going downhill.”

Moderator—“The other thing we’re supposed to collect is everybody’s—each of your favorite thing
about Chaffee County—favorite place.”

Pat--“My name is Pat Kelly Warner. My daddy came here on the train, he was a dentist, and he’d
practiced in Omaha and taught at Creighton university and he decided that he was going to go to
California. Anyway, he was on the train—he was on his way to make a fortune in the west. He wasn’t
going to stay in Nebraska and Iowa. And he and my mother were married before he came here in
1900. And they were coming up into Salida on the train and the train stopped in Salida, and
everybody had to travel by train those days—there was lots of railroad passenger cars. And they would
get off and eat in Salida and there were a lot of hotels in Salida, too. And some men from Salida got
on the train and asked, ‘Is there a dentist on this train anywhere?’ and my dad said, ‘I’m a dentist,’ and
the men said, ‘Oh, good, we’ve got a man that’s dying with a tooth ache here in Salida.’ So daddy got his bag of tools, and they took him up to the first place, which happened to be—I think the big bar, or the main bar—saloon, in those days. And they put the patient on the pool table and pulled his tooth! Oh, the were so glad that they had a dentist and they asked him where he was going, and he said, ‘I’m going west,’ and they said, ‘Oh, please stay here—we need a dentist here, we need a dentist so bad.’ And daddy said, ‘Well, what do you do here, what do you do?’, and they said, ‘Well, we hunt and we fish, and daddy said, ‘Well, that’s it for me, then.’ [Laughter] So he got off and stayed here and practiced dentistry all his life and my brother was born here in 1904 and he was a dentist, and uh, he stayed here all his life and so did I.”

Moderator--“And is Warner your maiden name or married name?”

Pat--“My married name. My daddy was Dr. N.H. Kelly. And my brother was Dr. S.F. Kelly. And my brother, I think was the first dentist to work at the correctional facility and he went to work there Tuesday mornings and Saturday mornings, every week, in Buena Vista, working on the inmate’s teeth. And he became good friends with a lot of inmates and some of them turned out to be wonderful fellows and some of them even went to school and practiced dentistry when they got out.”

Moderator--“It was the reformatory then, where these like teenage boys, then?”

Pat--“They were more adult. There weren’t any young kids, not that young.”

Moderator--“So they weren’t really boys—it’s referred to as the Boy’s Reformatory.”

Pat--“One of them was a boy and he was in for murder. His name was Medberry, I think it was. But he had circumstances around him that he needed to shoot the man. Anyway, he’d been in there since he was 14 and they sent him up from Canon City because this was a little younger, clientele. [Laughter]”

Joe Cogan--“I’m old enough to remember the name Medberry. I don’t remember the whole situation, but I remember the name Medberry.”

Pat--“And he was a, oh, he turned out to be a fine person. And he finally was paroled, or released, whatever they call it. And went on to have a good life. And another man that was up there—I can’t remember his name and he went to school and (garble) and afterwards would visit him in Salida. We had a cabin up at the North Fork. My husband and I owned some 80 acres up at North Fork. So we built a cabin there and Stan had a Jeep—that was my husband. And I wanted the sound of water—we were right by the river, but it didn’t make much noise, it was quiet. You know, North Fork isn’t too big. So he took his Jeep and it had a snow plow on it and he just shoveled the Jeep in the river and shoveled up a few rocks in the river and we went back a few weeks later and here was a beaver dam. It was the biggest, nicest beaver dam you ever saw. The beavers took over and they made a beautiful lake right in front of our cabin. And it became quite deep. And, oh it was, my daddy was a great fisherman—fly fisherman, only. We wouldn’t allow anyone to fish out there with a worm. He was out there fishing with flies and he was right at 80 years old. And he had those waders on—and they just cleared the water, so it got to be a pretty good sized lake up there.”

Moderator--“Now this is the North Fork of the South Arkansas.”

Pat--“Yes.”

Moderator--“And what was your cabin like?”

Pat--“Well, it was built by my husband and I, and we didn’t know anything about it. We didn’t know anything about building, except in our minds. [Laughter] So we knew how to work the concrete and I helped him, too. Mixed it in the mixer, you know? I think everybody had one—all the farmers did and ranchers did. And we managed to get a cement floor in our cabin. And I wanted a hardwood floor, so
we had an old cabin up at the Ute Trail where my husband’s family was in the granite business and the cabin they tore down, and it had beautiful hardwood and so we took the flooring up there and had a beautiful hardwood floor, and made it diagonally. And it was a beautiful floor in that cabin. And so we were going to have a fire place and my husband had a friend in Pueblo who could build fireplaces. We’d bought the inserts you put in the fire place, and we hauled the rocks from down in the canyon and we had everything ready to have the fireplace built on the weekend. And my husband poured the cement, and then we came to Salida and we went back the following weekend to build the fireplace and here were great big bear tracks in our cement. [Laughter] We didn’t get to wait—we had to start building a fireplace. And the guy from Pueblo couldn’t come because his wife had polio. So it was up to my husband and I to build to build the fireplace. Well, we got the whole covered up, anyway, and it was a nice fireplace.”

Moderator--“So would you say that that’s your favorite place.”

Pat--“Well, yeah, that’s my favorite place.”

Moderator--“Well, let’s continue on around the table, and talk about your favorite place—and it could be someplace that’s gone. And it’s a place that you’d like to see saved, well that’d be good to hear about, too.”

Ruth--“Well, I don’t know if I have a favorite place, but I certainly love our downtown area. My first job was at Alexander’s Drugstore, which is now Lolier’s and I think it’s just a pleasure to go down there and see that that business is still there. Um, our downtown has changed—I worked for about 25 years at Cruzbegs, which was one of the big department stores and that could have been my favorite place. When I go by that building now—I guess I used to decorate the windows every week. I kind of think our downtown area is my favorite place plus our mountains. It’s just all so much fun to go up into the mountains. And we used to take our Sunday lunch—and all of our children and my husband and I would go up to Bonaza, and that was our chomping ground. I think our mountain area. And our old downtown.”

Moderator--“And Clifford, what do you think?”

Clifford--“Well, I have all kinds of favorite spots. Well, I mean, they’re all nice—Cottonwood Lakes and North Cottonwood and [garble].”

Moderator--“You worked at Futurity? Or your dad did? Did you say that Futurity, you or your?..”

Clifford--“His father, yeah.”

Moderator--“Your father worked up at Futurity?”

Ed--“Your dad was telling me about all that. They lived in that little house back there.”

Moderator--“Oh, you’ve got a house up in Futurity?”

Ed--“No. [garble] His father and mother lived up on this little rental, and he was telling me that he worked at that one you’re talking about. Were is it—up on [garble]?“

Moderator--“Lin Hardy, yeah.”

Ed--“And then Futurity, he had talked about it and the neighbor next door, he—Edwards, he had, was raised in, uh—it wasn’t Futurity, but it was, well I forget. But anyway, you know, your dad told me a whole lotta stuff, about mining and Futurity and about Lin Hardy and I don’t know where all.”

Clifford--“Well, they’d been all over the whole county.”
Female voice—“What did they mine in Futurity?”

Clifford—“I couldn’t tell you.”

Moderator—“I think—could it have been coal?”

Female voice—“No. It was probably the trace minerals, probably lead and zinc.”

Moderator—“It wasn’t silver gold, it just…”

Joe Cogan—“When you find silver, silver stains the rocks black—so quite often prospectors would go into were there was shale and they’d be sure that the next shot was going to bring it through. And they would dig and dig and dig and the ranchers always called it “Partisy-dig-more. [Laughter] Because they’d just dig until they couldn’t dig anymore and then they’d move on. The Black Dumps were that, there’s, uh, all out through Coon’s Park—Mr. Coon, Winabell Feilling’s father, prospected all the way out through Coon’s Park and dug up shale in every prospect. Um, the Bassemme’s, they prospected out through there.”

Male voice—“I think up the Glen Hardy, I think they got some—probably a little silver out of that. I think a little copper, and various things.”

Joe Cogan—“You had pretty Iron Pyrite around…”

Male voice—“Well, one favorite spot when I was out there was Midland Hill. You could go up there all the time and they had, well, on the south end of it kind of a little rounded peak and they had a little box up there—a little white box and the trail went up to it. And everybody in Buena Vista had walked up to there and signed their name. And now the vandals have torn it down. The trail’s still up there, but the box is gone.”

Moderator—“Does anybody know where the lady miner lived, up on Midland Hill?”

Male voice—“On the back side, the Indian head, there.”

Moderator—“So, sort of on the Northwest corner.”

Joe Cogan—“We used to go up to the Fat Man’s Squeeze, which was just north of the white box. And go to the White Box. We’d do that to play hooky for the afternoon—we had to back before school turned out.”

Male voice—“We used to find a few arrowheads up there, and we’d take them, well—I did, at least. There was an old fella there by the name of Scotty Craig in Buena Vista and he bought them. If they were real good you might get a quarter. [Laughter] But more than likely it was five cents or ten cents. I mean we didn’t find like, hundreds of them, but, you know.”

Male voice—“Do you know what happened to his collection? Has it gone to a museum?”

Male voice—“His collection? I don’t know. I don’t know what happened.”

Joe Cogan—“I’ll bet Craig Nucky has those.”

Male voice—“Oh, he could have them.”

Male voice—“I bet nobody would say it if they did. [Laughter]”
Joe Cogan—“No, you can collect them and you can collect them on federal property, I’ve got the law at home. It says that you cannot dig, you can’t excavate.”

Moderator-- “But you can pick up.”

Joe Cogan—“But you can pick them off the surface if you do not dig. It specifically exempts surface finds.”

John--“Did anybody hear, what like five or six years ago, about that guy who picked one up. One of those government guys, or whatever it was, he picked that up. Right outside of Bonaza, oh, right outside of that area. And he put it in his pocket and that guy arrested him.”

Joe Cogan—“I think that’s some local..”

Male voice—“I think awhile back, Joe, I seen the sign up in Bassam Park—I don’t know, like four or five years ago, there was a sign up there around the Black Dumps that said you weren’t supposed to pick up any artifacts. You’re supposed to leave them for other people to see

Joe Cogan—“I tackled the Forest Ranger about that..”

Male voice—“But way back…”

Joe Cogan—“I said, ‘I have a copy of the law and it specifically exempts picking them from surface.’ And he said, ‘Oh, we have a regulation against picking them up.’

Moderator—“Well, we probably better get back to our subject.”

Female voice--“Well, there was a lot of mining in Bonaza, are you interested in that area?”

Moderator—“I think we better stick to Chaffee County. But like Bassam Park is a good thing to cover because it’s another part…Ladonna, what are your favorite places?”

Ladonna—“Oh, I have favorite places in Bassam Park. But the mountains, and river—we live along the river, so that’s my favorite places.”

Moderator—“Ed, what are yours?”

Ed—“I think some of these high lakes. I like Bear Lake, Lost Lake, some of them. I come from back in the Midwest were you didn’t have all these mountains. So it was kinda, and I still like these high lakes—I’d have to have a horse now to get there. I can’t walk that. [Laughter] But otherwise…And the country as a whole, it’s pretty hard to beat.

Ruth--“And I like Midland Hill. I did as a kid usually the most. Now I think that Cottonwood Hill is a little prettier, but Midland Hill…you know, our folks would just let us go, and we were just little kids. We were maybe 11, or 12 years old and we could go up the mountain if we wanted to, or up to 4 Mile. When you have so many kids, you’re just glad for some of them to have something to do. And we had a lot of good memories of Midland Hill. We’d go down there when you had to jump across from one plank to another with a big place in between. And I’d try to make my sister carry me up—you’d think I was the biggest baby—but I didn’t think my legs were long enough to jump from one side to the other.”

Moderator--“And this is crossing the river, you mean?”
Ruth--“Crossing the river, yeah. You know the old bridge had deteriorated and they’d kept a part of it and then just put some planks so you could get across it. For an adult, I guess it wasn’t too bad, but I never wanted to go across it when I was an adult, either.”

Male voice--“That was the old Midland, Hackroad bridge?”

Male voice--“It’s gone now.”

Moderator--“Right, you can still see it, but not…”

Ruth--“Yes, I know where it is and I have do have a picture or two taken there..”

Male voice--“Do you? We need that!”

Ruth--“We’re teenagers in it, sitting on the rock, posing. [Laughter]”

Male voice--“Do you know who burned the bridge?”

Joe Cogan—“June Caputis claimed to know who burned the bridge. But they were still alive, so she didn’t tell.”

Male voice--“There’s so many places now—it’s not just here in Chaffee County, that are getting tore up. They don’t care, I guess.”

Moderator--“Alright. So Joe, what’s your favorite place?”

Joe Cogan—“Well, on the home front, I like that meadow. But the little high meadows that are only open for about a month in the summer—I love to go there when they’re in bloom. The wee flowers, they just smell so good. Just to lay around. Of course the mosquitoes don’t help you any. But it’s such a beautiful place, and it’s uh, of course that time of year it’s very temperate. Cool nights and I just enjoy—any time I can get away, that’s were I’ll always escape to. But now I can’t go even with a horse—I can’t ride a horse, my hips won’t let me and I can’t walk that far. So I have to be satisfied with Cottonwood pass.”

Moderator--“Which is a really good way to get up to timberline quickly. You know, we have a place there, too. Alright, Jean, what about you? ”

Jean--“Well I spent 12 years living in a section town in southwestern Wyoming and another 7 years living in a government camp. And so I left the government camp for Glenwood Springs, and those mountains came in on me. I was so claustrophobic there. A few years later I moved to Salida. I fell in love with the downtown, with F Street, with the neat yards, and the beautiful gardens on Sackett and 1st and 2nd Street. And I just thought that I had died and gone to heaven. [Laughter] You know, it was my first experience living in a town. And I still love Salida, and I think a lot of new things are happening and have happened. And that also goes for, I don’t know, Buena Vista—I just love the whole area. But F Street is one of my favorite streets with the beautiful Victorian homes and just the way people take pride in their yards and homes.”

Moderator--“Yeah, it’s great. Danny, what about you?”

Danny--“I like the Marshall Pass country. You know, that’s were my ancestors always used to run the cattle. My mom would tell me stories, her and my grandpa would go up to the top of Marshall Pass, we had a cow camp up there. Now they took it and put it in the snowmobile cabin up top. And my grandma, we lived up there in Poncha, by the old river and we used to go up. My grandma would get tired of staying home alone, so she would go out to the track and hitch a ride with the train and go out and spend a week or two with my mom and my grandpa. Then the stories she told me about all the
different trails and the country were they drove the cattle. There was a salt lick up there—sheep would come down and eat salt right off the railroad track.”

Moderator--“And, Stan.”

Stan--“Well, the thing I remember distinctly, is when we were teenagers we used to go up to Northfork and they’d cap the lake up there about two weeks. We used to go up there and camp and catch fish up there. And the fish were just outstanding at that time at Northfork Lake.”

Moderator--“What were you catching up there?”

Stan--“There were native trout. And salmon.”

Moderator--“Rainbow?”

Stan--“And Rainbow. They were pretty good sized. Bob was the fisherman, the rest of us just went up for the fun of it.”

Ed----“There’s part of an old tunnel up there, isn’t there?”

Joe Cogan--“The Billings Tunnel, yes.”

Ed--“It just reminded me. You can go over the top there and one way you can go into Palmer(?) Lakes and at the head of that you can go over that hill. Hancock Lake. I was brand new in the country and we went fishing at Hancock, and my brother and I decided to walk over. We thought we were going into Nathrop, well we were at Northfork. We got there, and man it was dark. We finally, well somebody was camped there and we asked them where we were at. And they said, ‘Well, you’re about 10 miles from Poncha Springs. [Laughter] Man, we were really…”

Ruth--“Your momma was really unhappy that you left one brother waiting.”

Ed--“Yeah, we left one brother waiting for us at Hancock.”

Ruth--“Yeah, until way after dark.”

Danny--“A few things I missed, too, was down in Wellsville, there used to be a pavilion down there and they used to have dances down there and it burned during the war. Then up at Princeton, they had a dance hall up there and an old hotel and it was founded by some people from New York, people that had money and of course, it’s just the restaurant that’s there now. But that was the old hotel and it was just beautiful up there. We used to go camping, by the way, the first year we up there we though we’d be like the people in Africa do, you know, you put those big sacks and put the logs over our shoulders. It didn’t last very long, everybody was out of step. [Laughter] So, we had to give that up.”

Ruth--“They used to camp for two weeks. And one time, one week, they came home and I said, oh my, I bet somebody’s hurt up there. You know, they had to walk in, there was no road into it. So they came home, they had run out of food, so we gave them more food. And so they had to walk back in. Six miles—it was good for them. [Laughter]"

Joe Cogan--“You know this going through the high country and so forth is why I was always known as the poorest football player in Buena Vista. Because I’d never seen a ball until I started school. I knew what a hoe was, a shovel was, and a rake, but I had no idea what a ball was. Really, I never was worth a darn with a ball. Coach told me, ‘Joe, I like ya, you’re the poorest player we have, but you’re tall, you’re big, and I like you around to scare the other team.’ [Laughter]"

Female voice--“You had a few tall sisters, too, didn’t ya.”
Joe Cogan—“Oh, yes, six foot-ers.”

John—“Oh, one of my favorite things is I wish that they would put that bandstand back in the Alpine Park. That’s were most of Salida, of course before television, come in, of course a lot of new-comers, but, ah, that’s were everybody gathered on Thursday night and they played music, and of course everybody brought a picnic and it was just neat. And I kinda like to see it go back. I do want to see Salida remain Salida. And one of my memories, you’ll get a kick out of this, when I was a little kid, well I was in Jr. high school, and I was kind of a smart kid—smart aleck. But anyways, the troop trains would come through, the 10th Mountain Division up in Leadville. And they would come through—they would stop in Salida. Well, I would run down to the Victoria Bar down there, which was owned by the Mehoses and I’d get candy and pop. You see these vendors in the football games, carrying them. But anyway, I’m down there selling them to the soldiers and this guy comes up and grabs me by the neck and he says, ‘Just what do you think you’re doing?,’ and I said, ‘I’m just selling pop and candy,’ and he says, ‘You know, there’s a lot of sabotaging going on,’ and I said, ‘What the heck does that mean?’ Anyway, he opened his coat like that and there was that FBI badge. ‘I’ll remember that—so he says, ‘Would you eat any of that stuff?’ and I said, ‘Yeah, if you buy it.’ So he picked out, and I’ll never forget it, an Orange Crush and an Oh Henry, and I ate it, and he paid 10 cents. [Laughter]”

Male voice—“Funny how you remember things like that.”

Male voice—“Back in the ‘40s when the troop trains come through, I mean, during the war. Kids in Buena, you know they’d stop there in town and you couldn’t get across the tracks. And the soldiers on there would have us go get them cigarettes or pop or whatever.”

Female voice—“My mom would send us out to see the troop trains. She would say, ‘Go see the troop train and see if any of your brother’s are on there.”

Joe Cogan—“I remember that line of people that used to go up to get that elicit booze, just ah, two blocks up there, from the highway, don’t print that. But that’s were that booze went that Bill Benedict made.”

Male voice—“I don’t think anybody would know the difference.”

Ed—“The towns are changing anyway, not a whole lot of full-timers around.”

Moderator—“Why don’t you talk about that a little bit. How are thing’s changing?”

Male Voice—“Well, I just see, you know, like Buena Vista. Growing up there, it’s just, ah, it’s just changing. The people are coming in, newer people are coming in and, uh, they have different ideas in big cities.”

John—“You know, one of the things that, and I served on City Council for 15 years and I’ve seen a lot of change. And I think a lot of that is that we’ve got people coming in here—they didn’t like what they had where they were—they’re moving in here now and paying big money for houses and lots and stuff like that and they want to bring what they left! And, you know, I could never understand that, but like I said, my—and the other thing I liked is that if you wanted to borrow $100—hand shake. And if he couldn’t make that $100, he come to you and say, ‘Look, I’m a little tight this month, but I’ll pick it up next month.’ And there was no interest, no nothing—just a hand shake. And I think television has ruined a lot of…”

Ed—“They talk about progress, I think progress is how you look at it. I look at Buena Vista when I come out in ’50 and in ’55, ’60, we had two or three grocery stores and a men store, two women’s stores, a shoe shop, we had a train in and out that you could catch and a bus in and out. Okay, forty years
later, we have one grocery store and we have three times as many people. We don’t have any public transportation of any kind.”

Joe Cogan—“But, fellas, don’t you feel good when you meet old friends? From the old families? Yeah, just like now.”

Jane—“Just along the lines you’re talking, that Salida had so many business even during the depression and after the depression. We had, I think five grocery stores. The individual business man is out of business. We had three great drug stores, tailor shops, two movie theatres. We had about four ladies dress shops, and like I said Crusbeg’s, the department store from about 1896, and everything’s out of business.”

Ed—“It was a nice store, too.”

Jane—“It was a wonderful store. It was a store for the whole community. And those are the things that I think we’re losing—the individual business man.”

Moderator—“You don’t think Walmart?…”

Jane—“No, but everybody shops at Walmart.”

Ruth—“Well, what I keep telling Ed is, a lot of these people are really nice. And the entertainment, all summer long, there’s someplace you can go to be entertained. There’s always people playing guitar’s, you know, all kinds of things. You know, there’s many things to do now, with the new people, places to go. I don’t know who they are, I don’t care, it’s nice enough.”

Jane—“We have a lot of musical culture here which I am very grateful for, but, we always did have. We had a women’s club, and they brought in a lot of renowned artists to sing and play the piano, whatever. So we were always a musical group of people. And I have a picture here which is just outstanding. The Elks Men, dressed as women, and they had a mock wedding. I’ll pass it around, it’s just fun. And we did have a great dancing teacher—I’m the little one on the end.”

Male voice—“That’s you?”

Jane—“That’s me! And then, the tailor shops I have pictures of that. It’s just a shame we’ve lost our individual, private businesses. That’s what I miss the most.”

John—“I used to like to see that, you’d go in there and charge, and they’d put your bill up there on that thing. [Laughter] I’ll tell you another funny thing, we used to go fishing at the river, when everybody else was getting polio, we were in the river, but we would go in there and steal the weenies and the buns. So we’d go up there and have us a swim and a bun. Well, you know what, well that went on for probably, my junior high and half of my high school and when I graduated…”

Moderator—“What year was that, when you graduated?”

John—“53. In ‘53, I went over there, and I wanted to say goodbye to some people and I went and I said to Mr. Stancato, who owned Stancato Grocery, and then Mr. Beuto was on the top and I said, ‘I’m leaving, and I just want to say thank-you, because you’ve been real nice,’ and they both said, ‘Yeah, you were the biggest thief!’ [Laughter] ‘Yeah, you thought you were getting away with this, but we knew what you were stealing!’[Laughter]”

Female voice—“They didn’t have a bill ready for you, did they?”

John—“No, they made my folks pay them, but I didn’t.”
Moderator--“Well, you guys have covered a lot of these questions really well.”

Stan--“When I went to high school I worked for an independent grocer, Mr. Bens. Mr. Bens came across the fairplay country in a covered wagon in the 1800s. He had a nice, he had a wonderful grocery store, but I worked for him for about three years while I went to school.”

Male voice (John?)--“One of the, I bought a building in downtown Salida, and Greenburg Furniture used to be there. That goes back to—everybody, I guess, knew Greenburgs. But anyway, there was two brothers, Abe and Hyman, and their folks, they would sell hives and stoves and everything, you know. But anyway, to make a long story short, Abe got snowed in in South Park and it froze his feet up. They cut all of his toes off and he walked kind of funny. But anyway, when I bought that building, some of the old stoves were still in there. I found Hyman’s drivers license. You know, I think the thing, and you’ll get a kick out of this, I saw, well, there was some inventory up there and Mr. Greenburg had it marked up like four times what it was supposed to be. And you’d go in there, and you say, ‘Well, wait a minute, is that the best thing you can do?’ and he say, ‘Well, let me see here,’ and bring it down—and he still made 100%. [Laughter]”

Male voice--“They used to do that up in Bueny, too. Henry Drier, he had a variety of different things in there. I remember one time I went in there to get a present for my mother’s birthday and I found this glass cake plate on a little pedestal. And I thought, ‘Well, that’s kinda nice, maybe I’ll get that.’ And I said, ‘Well, how much is this, Henry?’, and he said, ‘Well, how much you got?’ [Laughter] And he always did this when kids come in. I looked in my pocket and I said, ‘Well, I have 75 cents,’ and he said, ‘Well, that’s what that costs. [Laughter] He did that with most all the kids that came in there.”

Moderator--“What kind of store was that?”

Male voice--“Drigo’s Store.”

Joe Cogan—“But he had candy for the kids and you could get five pieces for a penny. Cause most kids only got a penny. Remember when you would only get a penny to spend? And you made it go as far as you could.”

Ruth--“I sent my sister back to ask dad if he had any pennies. And it got where she would sing him a song—‘Do you got any pennies?’ [Sang like: Nanny, nanny, boo, boo] [Laughter] But I was afraid to go back and ask because I was too big.”

Joe Cogan--“He had an arrowhead in his display out in the store window. It was as big as two-thirds of my hand like that. It was a typical Ute arrowhead. I don’t know who made it, or how they got it, or anything. Clearly it wasn’t for an arrow, but just for something to look at, it was really a grand thing. You remember that, don’t ya, Cliff?”

Clifford--“Pat said that it was a spear point.”

Joe Cogan—“Well, it might have been.”

Moderator—“Well, does anybody have any other comments? What do we still have that we should make sure we keep?”

Jane--“Well, being friendly. People used to be friendly to everyone, you know. You go down the street and you’d speak to everybody and they’d speak back, but I notice now that—I live close to the trail that everybody takes, and modern people, mothers and fathers, they’re warning their children, ‘Don’t speak to strangers.’ And I see little kids, I sit on my porch a lot and I’ll speak to them and some of them won’t. They won’t answer. They’ve been warned, ‘Don’t speak to strangers.’ And I hate that—it isn’t friendly, and, well, with good reason I suppose, but...”
Joe Cogan—“And the families, they used to take care of their own problems. They had children that were born with an intelligence level below the other children and they stayed at home until he died of old age and nobody paid any attention. We had people you had to warn—I remember hearing my father and mother tell my sisters, ‘Watch out for this guy.’ And the word got around. ‘Just don’t let him get you away from the bunch at all.’ And that guy was accepted in the bunch, but everybody knew—just don’t let him get you on the other side of the tree from the bunch.”

Jean—“Well, we have a lot of that, I don’t know, I think Salida, you know, my favorite time of the week was Saturday, you know, I would go downtown, we had, you know, one of the drug stores had a fountain and you’d go in there. And there were those type of people in there, we call them Salida characters and everyone took care of them. You know, it was like, you got to be careful with this person because of such-and-such. And we had one person, I don’t know, I can’t remember his name, but he was deaf and dumb. What was his name? Domey, Domey, yes and he would go into the bakery. And you know he had, you know, sign language, and before, you know, everyone could sign with Donny. And he would just sit there and, you know, he had a lot of—you know, he wore one of those railroad caps and he had pins, people would put pins on him—on a hat. And he had that smile, that beautiful smile and people were kind. I just thought it was beautiful.”

Jane—“He could write. He could write beautifully, in the Palmer method, too.”

Joe Cogan—“And his wee dog he thought so much of. And the dog died. And different people would find a cute pup and take it to him. And no, no, no, no. He wouldn’t take it.”

John—“You know one of the other things that I’d like to see come back. If Saturday night, if you didn’t go down there and park your car and walk home, you didn’t get a parking spot. Everybody came in, okay, and they were dressed in a suit and shoes shined, everything. I mean it was just…”

Female voice—“Where did they go?”

John—“In Salida, they would go to suit dances they were having and then they would park in front of Degreek’s, right by the jewelry store there. And you know, you would go in there and you would get banana splits, sundaes, just all kinds of things.”

Jane—“It was a hangout! We’d go there after football games. Jim Degreek’s was the hangout and he made the best candy, all their own candy with the little cigar.”

Female voice—“With ashes in it. [Laughter]”

Jane—“But before Louis was Miller’s Candy Kitchen and my mother worked there. You know where the Pueblo Bank is right now, there were three buildings were the parking lot is. And it was Miller’s Candy Store there, my mother worked there and she always bragged about—they had a wonderful fountain there also. She said, there was some gentlemen came in one day and he asked for ice cream, with chocolate on it, and a little bit of whip cream and nuts and she said, ‘Oh, you want a chocolate sundae!’ and he said, ‘No, I want it right now.’ [Laughter] And she always bragged about the fact that she served Jack Dempsey.”

Moderator—“Oh!”

Female voice—“We have the floor that Jack Dempsey fought on in the grocery store over there in our kitchen right now, it’s our kitchen floor.”

Female voice—“Really?”

Female voice—“My husband, years ago, as a young man, was a construction worker and helped demolish that floor. When it was a roller rink, wasn’t it? And then a fighting floor? And he saved that
wood for the last 30 years and we have it know in our kitchen. At least that’s what he tells me. [Laughter]"

Moderator--“Well, everybody, thanks so much. And we might want to do some follow up and some point, I’m not really sure what’s going to happen, but we’ll be in touch.”