

(Tape #1009: Interview with William and Anna Barrowman. This tape was made October 13, 1972. Interviewer is Effie Amicarella.)

Well, I'll tell you one thing about this three-room place. In 1881 --that's just the three rooms on the other side--Matt Manning had a little store in one bedroom and they lived in the other part, you know. The stage coach used to come through here, you know, and they stopped and unhooked their horses, you know, and took them down there to the slough and watered them, bring them back, and they'd come in and buy them a lunch, and eat their lunch, you know, and one thing and another, and after they were through eating and rested up, then they'd hook up their team and go to Denver. Well, of course, when they came back they didn't stop, you see, because they only came from Denver, they went on through. That was the history of the house then--just the three-room house. That was about 1881, I think, when dad bought it from the man who had it. What his name is now I don't know, but...I've got lots of deeds and things up there that they made in those days, you know, that you don't see any more, if you'd like to look some of those things over. I'd love to. We've got books up there, you know, history of Colorado, you'd be welcome to take those and look them over or take them up to the library if you want to. I don't think they will be any good to us. We've got a lot of other books down there, you know, that might be a little good to you up there. But, of course, after several of our children were born, you know, why, then Daddy built two more rooms on. How many children were there in the family? Six... seven, I think, one died in infancy. Nellie, when she got through school, you know, you've seen those pictures of her with those who graduated; well, of course, she went to Denver and took a business course. She worked for McMurtry Paint Company, that was quite a number of years ago. She worked there for eight or ten years, I guess. Then she finally went to Greatwestern Sugar Company and worked for them for quite awhile. Then, of course, she made a move to California. I don't know just what time that was, but that's where she met

this Mr. Morgan that she married, you know. She went into the job of buying up old places, you know, and.... (Anna: Why don't you just tell the history of the house and not what each one done.) Well, I thought she wanted to know the nature of the offspring. (Anna: No just about the house...not all that. Just the important things, you know.) Well, that's the nature of the house. The three rooms, dad built the two more on, and after their children got big enough and all left home, he went to work and built two more on. That's this two rooms here. (Anna: Tell about some of your neighbors...some of the older people you knew who lived around here.) Who were some of your neighbors around here? Oh, people by the name of Binans, you remember Tom Binan, he was an old-timer, Art Hurd and Will Hurd...they was all born down here just on the other side of the railroad, you know. Mr. Binan bought that place just on the top of the hill, there, you know. He was there for a long time. (Anna: Tell just about the neighborhood. Don't tell the whole thing, we'd be here two nights.) Well, dad bought this forty acres right in here from this man who had this house and store and he homesteaded the forty acres between this and then he bought the other twenty acres in the top field from Mr. Thomas--that's Deacon D's mother and dad. That's how he got that twenty acres in the top field, you see, Mrs. Snyder, she owned that twenty acres in the top field and of course, when she divided that up she gave Mr. Waneka twenty acres on the south. (Anna: She don't want that.) That's all right. And dad he bought... Mr. Thomas came to him and said he'd either buy dad's eighty acres or sell him his twenty acres that it wasn't no use to him like that so dad didn't want to sell the eighty or he bought the twenty. Now what did you want to tell me? (Anna: Listen, that's all going to be on tape. They don't want to listen to all that. They just want to hear about all you neighbors and all. That's all they want.) Well..... (Anna: Let Mrs. Amicarella ask you some questions and she'll give

(Tape suddenly ended. I believe Mr. Barrowman accidently sat on the recorder thus disconnecting the mike. It was not discovered in time to remedy...wait...

Okay, We had an ice house down there. We used to cover our ice with slack. Oh. And we would have ice up to, oh, pretty near the last of July, you know. Of course, we had one of those little boxes, you know, that you put a little block of ice in. That was our ice situation then. You cut the ice yourself? Yes, oh, yes. We had to go down there every year and cut that ice. You cut it with a saw? Yes, and used ice tongs to pull it out. We've got ice tongs up there that we used to pull ice out of the lake with and we'd put it on a board or something and slide it into the ice house. Then when we got it full we'd have to shovel that slack on it. So then when we started to use it we had to go back down and shovel that slack back and get a cake of ice, you know, and bring it up here and wash it off and put it in the ice box. It would last till it was gone, then we'd go down and get some more. We used to make ice cream about every Sunday, you know. That sounds good. Yeah, that was ice cream then, you know, pure cream.

I hauled ashes all one year there, red ashes. I hauled two or three hundred loads of red ashes from the top field down here. I had pretty good roads then. We could always get in and out. Dad and mother would go to Longmont quite a lot, you know. Dad's sister lived in Longmont. Well, some days they would start over there, you know, and some days they wouldn't get over there, they'd get mired in the mud so bad, you know, that they'd have to turn around and come back. So you know there wasn't very much roads around the country then. No.

Dad used to go away up there to Marshall. On Sunday night, you know, he'd walk up there and he'd work all week in the mine and come home on Saturday night. Mother was here, you know, with all that family by herself, you know. She had cows she milked and chickens and pigs, you know. Oh, it was pretty hard sledding. Yes, it was. Yeah, a lot different than we have today.

Now, I'm going to ask a question: Were there any Indians around Lafayette. I've understood there was some out on the creek at one time. I don't know much about the Indian proposition. I never heard dad say much about the Indians. I think they used to go through here once and a while, but I don't think they caused any trouble or anything like that, you know. Well, I understand that they used to camp over here on the creek quite often and I wondered... Well, now they probably did, but I don't remember. Well, I was thinking of your mother alone so much and wondered about it. Well, there wasn't anybody who ever bothered her, I don't think.

We had a cellar there underneath, you know. We used to dig our potatoes and such and put down there in the wintertime, you know. And all our garden stuff, like carrots and turnips and the like, why, we'd dig a hole out in the field, you know, and line it with straw and put the turnips and carrots and things like that in this pit and then cover it up. That's the way we kept our vegetables. But that place down there...mother used to keep her cream and stuff down there. She made butter. And that's what we built the cellar for. That was cool, you know. It would be just as cool as could be in the summertime. And it was warm in the wintertime...it would never freeze down there.

So the old mine up here, we'd go just outside the field, the old Pat Field, they called it. They decided to quit their place up there so dad bought the bricks that they had put around the boiler, you know. So, he bought that bunch of bricks, you know, and he brought them down here and he built that brick place. Well, we used to store stuff in the top of that, you know. That's what that was used for. So, then in my spare time I went down underneath the house here and I dug out and made a little cellar down there and then when we got.... We had a 32-volt light plant here at one time, that was after the wife and I got married, and then of course, I put that

down there. And then I dug out again, we'd got the electricity then, and I put the water in the house, a bath room, and then a little later on we got the telephone in, and what else did we do? (Anna: We put the furnace in.) Yes, I put the furnace in, dug out under there and cemented that all up and put the furnace in there. That's about all the improvements I done until we moved away. Sounds like a good job.

I notice you said you had a black smith shop here at one time. Oh, yes, I had a shop down there at one time, you know. We had one of these old bellows, you know, that you pump by hand. Dad used to go down there and start up a fire. He would put points on the plow shares and, if they were broke or one thing or another, why, he'd start a fire and he would weld them...not like they do today, of course, they didn't have the means to do it with then...but he patched them up so he could use them and we got along with them. And then, of course, when Mr. Meeks bought the place he tore a lot of the stuff down. We had an old barn up there, you know. Well, I was figuring on tearing that down, but he said, "Oh, leave it be. I'll get the boys down here one day." So, he tore it down.

Where were your parents born? Mother was born in Wisconsin and dad was born in Iowa. When did they come out to this country? Oh, I couldn't tell you. It must have been around 1880 or somewhere around there. Dad worked in the mine here for quite awhile before he did much farming, you know. What mines did he work in? He worked in the Haywood down here. And he used to walk to Erie, he worked down to Erie. And he worked in and around Marshall and those places, you know. He used to stay with some of Autrey's folks. They ran a boarding house up there and he used to stay with them during the week, you know, and then he'd come home on Saturday night, then on Sunday night he'd go back again. Did he used to work at the Columbine Mine? (Anna: No, no, I worked at the Rocky Mountain store here in Lafayette. I worked there for eight or fifteen years. You see,

they used to come and trade at the Rocky Mountain store from the Columbine before they got their store out there. Mr. Autrey, you see, was the manager. That's how I met many of the people from the Columbine Mine.)

Where did you children go to school then? We went to school up here. At the grade school that has burned down now.? We walked back and forth. That's quite a walk! Yes, it is. If was real stormy, dad would hitch up the old horse and wagon and take us but we had to walk home. That was about three miles, wasn't it? Well, about a mile and a half, I think, about three miles up and back. Winters used to be more severe than they are now. Oh, my, yes, sometimes the snow would be so deep you couldn't get the horse and wagon out and get through. One year, in 1913,, I think, by golly, it was three or four weeks before we got out at all. Baseline road was blocked up out here, by golly, and they couldn't get it opened up---I think it was three weeks. My brother-in-law ran a store over there, you know, and he had an old horse and sled, and the train came out and cleared the tracks off. We made a sled and we went up and down the tracks there for about three weeks. The train would bring groceries out as far as Lafayette and unload them there. We used to go up to the baker's shop and get three or four big boxes of bread and carry them down to the depot, you know, and we'd come home with that old sled full, you know, and people would come in there and in a day or two, why, we didn't have any groceries or anything else. It was three weeks we had to put up with that before they got the road opened up. Well. Yeah, we had a lot of bad storms here.

(Apparently the tape ends here.)