

Tape #1007; Interview with Albert Moon.

Mr. Moon, when were you born? When was I born? I was born in 1890 in Lafayette here. I was born in this house up here at where Bruger is, up here on the corner. I guess I'm about the oldest boy here now. Since Ben moved away? How's that? You're the oldest person here since Ben Cundle moved away? Ben, well, he wasn't born in Lafayette at all. I was born here in Lafayette, but he wasn't. Yeah, I have a birthday the 26th of January. Con-gratulations. My brother, he was born in Louisville and he's seven years older than I am. Did you always live in Lafayette? I've always lived here. I worked here all my life. In the summertime when the mines wasn't working, I'd go out and work in the fields--Harmons or Millers--and work for them out in the hay fields. Your dad had a meat market, didn't he? Yeah, he had a meat market, he ran a meat market here, I think, for about 19 years until they had that big strike and he let so much credit out that he had to sell out.

Did you ever do any coal mining? Oh, yeah, I worked the coal mines for 23 years. When I first started, I started over there at the Centennial. I started there with Bill Snow, my father-in-law. And then I came down to the Vulcan and I worked there for a little while and Dave Williams came in and he said, "Albert, who told you to work in here?" "Well," I says, "that's where..." if I could think of his name...well, anyhow, the Super that brought me in there... And he says, "Well, you ain't going to work in there" So I didn't go back no more. He said a fellow got killed in there and that it was a bad place. So then I went down to the Capitol...I worked the Capitol there for Charley Liley for awhile and then they wanted me to come over to the Columbine and work over there and drive a team of mules when they was building them houses. So I worked there until they got through with that. Then I went from there to the State Mine and I worked the State Mine there for a long while and my cousin's husband was boss, Bill Burke, and he asked me why I didn't come over there and work and I told him I didn't know he would give me a job and he said he would

give me a job so I went over there and I worked there for 23 years--the Clayton Coal Company. I helped to haul muck out of the Martian Mine, that belonged to the Clayton Coal Company, too. The Martian Mine, I don't remember that one. The Martian? Well, it's out northeast of Erie. Then after the Clayton finished they sent me and George Ellis over to the Washington. That's the last place I worked there. I used to go with Shiney Hall and on cold nights we'd bring a load of coal home. We could go to Longmont or somewhere with it and so we took a load of coal to Newt Dixon in Louisville and Newton said, "Albert, don't you feel good?" and I said, "No." He said, "What's the matter?" And I said, "I don't know." Well, the next morning I got up and I was no better and so I went to the doctor (Gordon wasn't there then, he was in the army) and I went to the barber shop first and I had my hair cut, then I went to the doctor, and at 11:30 I was over there in the hospital. I pretty near bled to death. So they kept me there for a week and gave me blood and then I came home and stayed here for two or three days and they took me to Community and they operated on me there. I've been operated on five times---two cataracts, ulcers, a rupture, and appendicis, the appendicis had grown to my rupture after they had operated. Otherwise, I've been pretty good.

What was Lafayette like when you were a boy still going to school? Oh, it was a whole lot smaller and there was quite a bit going on in those days, too. There was horse races and dog races here and game rooster fighting and everything like that. Good baseball games and I've got pictures here of a first team and a second team when they played ball...Chris Ward and Leo Days and Gordon and Swigers, I've got pictures of them here. I'll show them to you before you go. I'd like that. I didn't know they had dog racing. Oh, yeah. Yeah, there used to be a fellow lived right across from the town hall, Bill Yews, and he had three or four there. I remember one they called Duster and I don't remember the other two. Oh, yeah, yeah, they ran quite a few dogs and they used to fight a

lot of chickens. And they got put in jail a lot of times, too. We had a good horse race track down here across from the old Miller farm down here on the south side. There was a good track there. My dad had a bay horse, they called him Dick. I used to ride quite a bit so I was down there and I was on Jim Noble's horse and I looked up the road and here comes by dad behind that wagon on his bay horse. I went around the track and he went like that to me and I got off and went over and he said, "If you are going to ride a horse, ride this one." They had to have a handicap on him, he was a nice big bay horse. Dr. Edwards bought him and he went up to Fort Collins.

Of course, main street has changed many times? Oh, yeah, I've got pictures in there of main street when it burned down.

(The tape seems to have been stopped and started again and something may have been left out,)

They used to run an excursion from Denver to Lyons and people would come from Denver hunting doves, you know, shooting doves in dove season, and they'd leave them off down there and then when the train would come back from Lyons, they'd stop and pick them up. So there was two trains, one passing the other, and one guy was waving his hat and one of the fellows on the train we was on reached out and got his hat. (laughter) And then when they'd come back from Denver they'd pick them up, you see. Oh, there used to be a lot of turtle doves. Yeah, I worked for Jones up there a long while, too. One year the snow was so bad...I lived here then...and I went up the street north as far as Pecks and I had to go east and then I went north again and then I came west again to the livery barn. We had about 15 or 16 head of horses. Dan Jones and his dad ran it. How did you get around when you had that big snow? Well, they broke snow with horses and that....well, take the farmers and they'd come out with a bunch of horses and that. That's the only way. When we hauled coal from the Stratmore Mine, we couldn't go up the alleys--they were all blowed in, so we'd throw the

coal off in the front of the yard. The Stratmore Mine was about the only place we could get to at that time. The snow was up to the hubs of the lumber wagon, up to the hub of it.

Before the school was built in 1905 or something, where did you go to school? Well, I went to school up there where Ham Roberts had a store for a while. Yeah, in that back room. Yeah, I went to school in there. In that place, there used to be a dentist upstairs and Broomfields lived up there, there was several people lived upstairs, you see. You went up the west side by the steps. I went to school there in the north part of that building. You see, Vermont and VanDerburgh used to own that building. Did you know them? Did I know them? Oh, yeah. I knowed them real well. George Vermont, he lived up there where Danny Falitze lives now. He owned that house. VanDerburgs lived up there where, well, they lived up here in the new addition. Yeah, I knowed them real well. We had a prairie dog, we called him Billy, and he had a hole on the west side and he had one on the north side and every time George Vermont would come home, he'd give him peanuts. They was hauling ice one winter, we had a big ice house up there where my dad put up his own ice, and Frank Greeley was hauling ice, they hauled it with a team and horses in those days, and Frank's dog ran after this prairie dog and he got under the wheel and he got killed. He called him Billy.

~~No~~ One time, Charley Liley (me and him used to run around together all the time) and he kicked this prairie dog. He used to come up after milk in the evening and we had a plum tree right there in front of the house. One evening old Billy took after him and he got up the tree and he didn't bother him that time, my mother went out and got him away from him. But one time we was out behind the library playing ball and Charley was catching. That prairie dog walked up and got him right below the ankle and took a bite right out of his ankle. Yeah, bit that whole piece out. He knowed.

Oh, we used to have a great time. Me and him used to go to Louisville and when we'd go to Louisville after you go to turn down in town there'd

always be a bunch of girls sitting up there on that bridge abutment. Yeah, we used to have a great time. We were going to Louisville one night and one of these fellows had a horse from the livery barn and I had one of our horses and my brother's buggy and we started running a race out here by Harmons and we ran into each other and tore the wheel off my brother's buggy. And then we was in for it. Bill Noven, he ran a hardware store down there, buggies and that he had, and he got a wheel for it but we didn't get the wheel on on time. They caught up with us.

I worked for Ham down there for ten years after I was operated on. I enjoyed working for him, too. They're nice people. Sure nice...nice people. After I left there Mr. Roberts gave me ten silver dollars. I've got them in a box yet.....ten silver dollars....1921 and 1922, I think. I've got them pasted in a pasteboard box. They didn't like paper money around here for quite a long time, did they? Paper money? No, not too much. They didn't have too much. You don't see many silver dollars any more, either

Do you know who brought the first car to town? Car? I think Pete Peltheron did. Yeah, and he was going into his garage one day and he went right on through the back end of it. What kind of car was it? I don't remember. Do you remember the year? No, I don't. I know when I first got my Ford, my brother was in the back and I was coming down this other street over here and the town had put a load of ashes across the road and he told me to step on it and I did and he went up and hit that bolt with his head and he said, "You damned fool!" he said. (laughter)

I helped to plow that road up down on the highway between here and Broomfield, from the railroad track there by the post office down to the Boulder County line. I worked there and I helped to plow that up. We had eight head of horses on it. I lived in that brick house right there as you're coming in and make that turn. Evans' owned that house and I lived upstairs and I stayed down there, me and my wife, and then on Saturday nights we'd come home. And

I helped to gravel it, too. They got the gravel on top of the hill right west of Broomfield. I think I know where it is but I'm not sure. Well, right there at the track in Broomfield and east down to the Boulder County line. We got up there by the track where the post office used to be and that plow share turned over on us just like a fish hook, it was so hard. And I helped plow this road up down here by Wonecka's, too. I used to work quite a bit on the road work that we had. George Miller and Maud Crawford--when we used to drag that road, they just had a drag and you'd put two horses on each side of it, see, kind of slanted.. We'd go from here to the Boulder County line through Broomfield and it would take us all day to get back and forth. That was with four horses, two on each end. And I worked for Chris Dowd quite a bit. He lived out here by the "Y". He broke horses and I used to work for him, too, quite a bit, breaking horses.

Remember the old power plant? Up here. Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I remember that. After I was operated on I wanted to make a chimney out here . so I went out there and got some of them bricks to make it with. Alex Ross helped me load them and I'd come home and leave them and unload them the next day. I irrigated out of that plant lake for Raymond Harmon. Yeah, I used to irrigate out of the old plant for him. They had two head gates and they had clocks on them when the power plant was running, you see. And they'd come around at noon and see how much water was taken out. They'd allow farmers to take just so much water out and that was it, you see. Of course you couldn't irrigate that piece where the show is in that side on the plant side, you had to take that out before it came into the lake. But on Raymond's ..you could take it out on the east side, but on the plant side you had to take it out as it came down the ditch.

Do you remember when we first put in "home rule" for the city? Do I remember? No, I don't.

Do you know the Longmont sugar beet factory up here? Yeah. Well, I heard that one time just before it was built they were considering building

it in Lafayette, you know, rather than in Longmont. Well, they did figure on it there for awhile, then I don't know what came up. Yeah, they was figuring on it. Something must have happened. I don't know just what it was.

One of the advertisements in the paper was for acetylene gas, you know for lamps, and they were selling gas generators for gas lamps. I wonder what became of it. Was everybody using gas for lamps for awhile? No, not as I remember of. No, coal oil, then electricity,.

I did find out one thing: in 1905 our high school's basketball team were champions of the northern Colorado district, or something. Do you remember any of the boys who were playing then? In what year was that? 1905. No, I don't think I can remember them. It doesn't say where they played or anything? I don't remember. It was basketball? Uh, huh. Well, Rex and Delanor Harmon and, uh, I can't remember who else. They played a tournament up in Fort Collins, I believe it was , but I don't know if that would be them or not. May be. That was Raymond Harmon's boy--the one who was killed overseas. I couldn't tell you who the others were.

At one time we had one or two different flour mills, didn't we? Flour mills? Well, they had that one down there that's down there now where Rodisco is. And, uh... That one burned down once, didn't it? Yeah, that's right. Yeah, it burned down. And I don't remember the other one. Well, let's see, they had a flour they called "Silver Tip". Silver Tip. The Lafayette-Louisville Grain and Flour Company, or something like that. That wouldn't have been in Louisville then? No, I think it was... Lafayette? No, I don't remember.

One of the things that struck me a little bit funny is that every time we had some sort of sickness over here like smallpox, they would close us off, you know, they'd have a road block of sorts. Did they do that very often? No, not very often..

Do you remember how the streets were named? How's that? Do you remember how the streets were named in Lafayette? Well, they wasn't named for a long while .

until the town started putting them up. There wasn't much names on them. No, they wasn't hardly named at all. What were they named for? How's that? What were Simpson, Geneseo, and the other streets named for? Were they named after someone? Well, I don't remember just how that was. I don't remember how it happened. Well, Bermont Street up there, see, there used to be a fellow here named Bermont.

(End of tape # 1007)