

Gwen: This is the 11th of September 1903 and I'm Gwen Perschbacher and I'm going to be interviewing Joy Humes in their home at 1148 C Street. Joy, I'd like for you to tell me where you were born and what your parents' names were.

Joy: Are you ready now?

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: I was born in Bonanza, Colorado, a mining town, December 18, 1912.

Gwen: Were you born in a hospital or at home?

[00:01:00]

Joy: No, my parents built a new home preparing for my birth. It was a log house and I was born in this house and they had a midwife and her name was Mrs. Storey. I can't recall her first name, but that was one of her missions in life was to be a midwife. My parents or what?

Gwen: Yes, what were your parents' names?

Joy: Clyde Carlyle Tuttle and my mother's name was Anna Soash and, of course, Tuttle.

Gwen: How do you spell that?

Joy: Soash?

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: S-o-a-s-h.

Gwen: S-o-a-s-h.

Joy: S-o-a-s-h.

[00:02:00]

Gwen: Is that her maiden name?

Joy: That was her maiden name.

Gwen: What nationality was that?

Joy: I guess American. I never-

Gwen: It's a little different name.

Joy: Oh, yeah. When I was a kid they used to ask me and it'd just worry me I was a this or that, but finally I came up to the conclusion I was American.

Gwen: Very good. Now, when was your father born?

Joy: April 12, 1880.

Gwen: Your mother?

[00:03:00]

Joy: October 15 ... I don't know.

Gwen: Your mother was born in October 15, 1887. Do you know where she was born?

Joy: Wait, let me think. Oh! In Ohio. I kind of think it was Cleveland, Ohio, but I'm not sure. It was one of the bigger cities.

Gwen: Okay and your father was born where?

Joy: Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Gwen: He was born April 12, 1880, and his name was Clyde. Middle name?

[00:04:00]

Joy: Carlyle. C-a-r-l-y-l-e.

Gwen: Tuttle. Okay. Give me your birth date again. December 1912, but what was the day?

Joy: What was the day?

Gwen: I mean, the date.

Joy: Date.

Gwen: 12th or?

Joy: 12th. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: 12th. That's what I thought. All right and you were born at home.

Joy: Yes, a darling midwife.

Gwen: Mrs. Storey.

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Joy: I had 1 sister.

Gwen: What was her name?

Joy: Fay and that was spelled F-a-y.

Gwen: Oh, just F-a-y, okay.

Joy: Marie Tuttle.

Gwen: Did she marry?

[00:05:00]

Joy: She married Robert Ashley.

Gwen: Okay. A-s-h-l-e-y?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Okay. Now tell me what her birth date was.

Joy: July 22, 1916.

Gwen: Is she deceased?

Joy: Yes.

Gwen: Do you know what date?

Joy: It's on the tombstone out there. I'd a ... Oh, what did I?

Gwen: That's all right.

Joy: I've got it, yeah, right here I've got it then. She was 50 years and 3 months old.

Gwen: That would be 1966?

Joy: '66, yes.

[00:06:00]

Gwen: When did you move to Salida?

Joy: We come into this house on February 8- Wait a minute, February the 5th, 19- Wait, now, let me think, '58.

Gwen: 1958.

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Okay and have you lived in this house ever since you've been in Salida?

Joy: Yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gwen: Oh. Besides Bonanza at your own home, where else have you lived?

Joy: Now, you better shut that off. My father built retaining dams, well, now wait.
[00:07:00] First we had a little ranch and it was 7 miles below Bonanza on Kerber Creek.

Gwen: How do you spell that Kerber?

Joy: K-e-r-b-e-r.

Gwen: Okay and then where?

Joy: Let's see, I think I'm right on this, 1947. Wait a minute, am I coming out right?
[00:08:00] No, no, 1937. I had a lot of that down and now I'm kind of forgetting it. When did we buy? Oh, 1927. The folks bought Ox Cart Ranch.

Gwen: That's at the top of Poncha Pass?

Joy: Yeah, let's see, the south side.

Gwen: Of Poncha Pass? About how far is that from Salida?

Joy: About 17 miles. You know, I think Pate took a lot of this down.

Gwen: Okay and where else did you live?

Joy: Well, then we was on the ranch until '49.

Gwen: Now, was this with your parents?

Joy: Parents, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gwen: Then what happened in '49?
[00:09:00]

Joy: Oh, I lost my mother. This is all for Gary. My mother died at the age of 61 years old.

[00:10:00]

Gwen: Okay, 61. She was born in 1887. She died at 60 what did you say?

Joy: 61-1/2 years old.

Gwen: 1948. Does that sound right?

Joy: Let's see '48? It must have been. Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative). I think.

Gwen: Your mother died and then what happened?

Joy: Oh, my father sold the ranch.

Gwen: When she died then?

Joy: Yeah, after she died he sold the ranch.

Gwen: Did you move into this house then or?

Joy: No, I was married and lived at a highway camp just below the Ox Cart Ranch.

[00:11:00]

Gwen: Oh. When you were married?

Joy: April 6, 1947.

Gwen: Did you live at home up until that time? Did you live with your parents until that time?

Joy: Yeah, until I married. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Okay, what schools did you attend?

Joy: The Bonanza School and the Salida High School.

Gwen: That was through 8th grade then?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Did you go beyond high school?

Joy: No. Depression hit.

Gwen: Tell me a little bit about the Depression and how that affected you?

[00:12:00]

Joy: Well, my father was building the retaining dams for the Raleigh Mine and he was to build his 4th dam. He had already built 3 and he bought this ranch with the thought of he had 4 ways of paying for this ranch. He would build another dam, which would set him free. All of his livestock would be paid for that was used to build the dam. He could work on the county for the roads. He could sell hay. He could sell a few cattle products or a few cattle. That gave him 4 ways of helping pay for this ranch. The depression hit and he, with the help of his wife and 2 daughters, baled hay a few hours each day to sell for \$4 a ton.

[00:13:00]

Gwen: Oh my.

Joy: I know about the Depression.

Gwen: Do you have any idea what hay sells for now?

Joy: A 60-pound bale is \$5 to \$7.

Gwen: Quite a difference.

[00:14:00]

Joy: Yeah. We acquired an old baler that was driven by a horse and he'd go around and around and around and my mother and my sister and I would help put hay in this baler to, I don't remember what my dad done. He was in there, though, but we survived.

Gwen: Were you in high school then or how old were you?

Joy: Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative). Well, you couldn't hardly borrow a house in Salida.
[00:15:00] Mother had to live in town or pay tuition. She had to establish a home. We rented 2 front rooms from the Newell family for \$8 a month.

Gwen: That was 2 front rooms? Did you have a k-

Joy: 2 front and we had to cross their dining room, their kitchen, to get into the bathroom. Then we finally found a house on 8th street and my mother would go back and forth to be a wife and to be with us, establish a home because of the tuition.

Gwen: Where was the house you rented for \$8 a month?

Joy: On Dodge where Bill Heister lives on Dodge.

Gwen: Okay.

[00:16:00]

Joy: We finally got that. Then we'd go home on weekends and catch up on the work that had to be done.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Then, when you bought a house, what was the address of that house?

Joy: No, we just moved. We always rented.

Gwen: Oh.

Joy: You couldn't buy a 2nd house. It was the only time in my life, besides while we was having this 1 built, that we ever didn't own our own home. At 1 time I had 4

homes.

Gwen: When you rented this 2nd house, now where was it located?

Joy: On 8th Street. Corner of 8th and F. We shared that apartment or that house
[00:17:00] with a Nazarene minister and we shared the bathroom.

Gwen: Is that a 2-story house?

Joy: No, it's just 1 story.

Gwen: Well, how did that work sharing the bathroom or did you think-

Joy: Fine, fine. They were lovely, lovely people. He was a Nazarene minister and oh they were just lovely people.

Gwen: Do you remember what you paid for that apartment or what your parents did?

Joy: Uh-uh (negative). Then, where did I live? My last year of high school, yeah, I stayed by myself and I rented from Shonyo. They were prominent people.

Gwen: How do you spell that?

Joy: S-h-o-n-y-a (spelled Shonyo).

[00:18:00]

Gwen: S-h-u-n-y?

Joy: A-n. I think S-h-o-n-y-a I think, if I remember.

Gwen: What did they do?

Joy: He was retired. He was well to do and they had a home on 10th and F where Naccarato's live and they rented, let's see, me an apartment 1 room and 2 teachers had the other 2 rooms upstairs and we shared a bathroom.

Gwen: Do you remember what you paid for that room?

Joy: \$9 a month, I think.

Gwen: Inflation, I guess.

Joy: I think that was \$9 and I got to go home every weekend.

[00:19:00]

Gwen: Do you have any idea what the tuition was if you hadn't moved in town?

Joy: Uh-uh. We had to move. Joe Stuart, which was always a prominent man here,

helped my folks get into school without paying tuition. Otherwise, we'd have had to go to Saguache and that would have been 27 miles without any bus service. Of course, it was on the Salida telephone line.

Gwen: Can you remember what kind of games you played at home before you went to school? What was your earliest memory?

Joy: [00:20:00] No, we weren't much for cards. We'd done an awful lot of hand work and, of course, we sewed all of our own clothes. I can remember this. There was a drought and my father had to buy cow feed in white muslin sacks. One day I looked out on the clothes line and there wasn't a thing hanging on that clothes line that wasn't made out of sacks other than my dad's underwear. We made the sheets, the pillowcases, the towels, the brassieres, the panties, all out of those sacks.

[00:21:00]

Gwen: What about dresses? Did you make those also out of the sacks?

Joy: I had an aunt and 2 cousins who worked in offices in Denver and they would send their discarded clothes. They had good positions so they dressed well and my mother was an expert seamstress and we made them and they kept us in hose because we would sew up the runs. We went to dances a lot and you had to have a different outfit so you took the bow off the front of the dress and put the bow on the back of the dress and that made you a new outfit.

[00:22:00]

Gwen: What kind of clothes did you wear to school in grade school, for instance?

Joy: Well, my mother could sew anything.

Gwen: Were your dresses long, short, or do you remember?

Joy: Oh, short.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Did you wear long socks?

Joy: Oh, we wore black socks and I don't think napkins were too much in style, but the black socks were sure good to wipe your hands on. In those days a dog could stay under the table so if you didn't like some food you kind of gave it to the dog.

Gwen: Oh and what didn't you like?

Joy: Oh, I don't know. Of course, my mother became an excellent cook with what she had.

[00:23:00]

Gwen: Could you grow a garden there?

Joy: We did when we got into the ranch. It was an excellent garden. We traded vegetables with Roy Jones who lived in Salida and he could raise things that we couldn't raise. We also had dear friends who lived in Pueblo and they brought us beans and things. People traded around. If one had something they gave to the other person. I can remember my folks sold milk or cream for a living. One year my folks' grocery bill averaged \$10 a month and yet we had men to board during the summer.

[00:24:00]
Gwen: Was that to help with the harvest?

Joy: Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Did you charge your groceries or did you pay as you got them?

Joy: Oh, my folks never charged anything. One time I can remember he bought a harness for \$10 a month, but when ... It was the worst. They bought a radio for, I don't remember, but a few dollars a month. Other than buying the ranch, they never bought anything on time.

Gwen: Do you remember when you had your first radio?

Joy: The first what?

Gwen: Radio.

[00:25:00]
Joy: Yeah, well, after I got out of high school. We were the last ones to have a radio.

Gwen: What about transportation to and from school when you were in grade school? How did you get back and forth to school?

Joy: Well, in Bonanza you could walk. Then my folks were one of the last people to get a car. We had a Ford pickup that my dad used to transport ore from Bonanza to Villa Grove and then put it on the railroad. We bought a car then, well, it had a shed, but the back end of it had a seat when we were on dam building jobs.

[00:26:00]
Gwen: You remember what kind of car it was?

Joy: It was maroon colored and it turned kind of pink so then it got kind of bare. We got so we called her Shasta. She has to have something all the time.

Gwen: That was your car you called Shasta?

Joy: That was the car. Let's see, 1939 the Y & R Garage got 2 new Plymouth cars. The first that had been in. They were good friends and they told my folks that one of those cars was to be theirs. My dad said, "No, I'll not take it because I can't pay

[00:27:00]

for it until we ship cattle." They said, "You are to have that new car." They had the 2nd one and they let my my brother-in-law, let him have the other car. We had 2 new cars that weren't paid for until oh just a few weeks when they shipped the cattle. We had the first 2 new Plymouths that came into Salida.

Gwen: In 1939?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: What kind of car did you have before that or was that your first car?

Joy: Oh, we had that old Shasta.

Gwen: What kind of car was it? Do you have any idea or the year that you got it?

Joy: A Durant.

[00:28:00]

Gwen: A Durant.

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: I never heard of the Durants.

Joy: Well.

Gwen: Do you remember what year it was? What model?

Joy: I don't know. I can remember it was getting to be a pretty old car when I graduated in 1931 because I knocked a fence post down with it. I don't know. Oh and I had a boyfriend and this Robert that lived with they decided to paint it. Well, they hadn't taken any painting lessons.

Gwen: It didn't turn out so well, I take it. Well, going back to high school- Well, tell me a little bit about your grade school, your teachers and-

[00:29:00]

Joy: Well, first we just had 1 room and then Bonanza grew until they had a regular school, a nice school building. Then they rented another building that had been a store building for the 2nd building. I think they had 4 grades, first 4 grades in that building, and the regular school had 4 grades and you went through the 8th grade there. A few people got to go to Saguache to school and most of them worked for their board and room or something over at Saguache.

Gwen: They stayed at Saguache then?

[00:30:00]

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah, that would have been, I think we figured 30 miles.

Gwen: Would that have been high school students or grade school students?

Joy: No, just the high school students.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What did you do at recess?

Joy: What did I do what?

Gwen: At recess?

Joy: Oh, we had fun. We played all kinds of games and 1 of our main things was coasting.

Gwen: What was that?

Joy: On a sled. We done a lot of that. Oh and we played baseball. I can remember some young men helped us play baseball and we played all kinds of games. Oh, Jacks was a good game.

Gwen: Did the boys and girls play together?

Joy: If I remember right, yeah.

[00:31:00]

Gwen: Well, now we'll go to Salida and your high school years. What can you tell me about your school, your teachers?

Joy: Well, of course I'd never been in a big school and it was a challenge and I had some wonderful teachers and I made it fairly well. I graduated in my upper 10 of the class and to be drug from a little school to a big school, that was work. My last year it cost me \$1 to go to school. I sold my books to buy my present books. I worked for Dean Rouse in 3 subjects so that was shorthand, bookkeeping, and typing. He furnished all my typing paper and I never went to town and got a Coke. As far as my books and everything, it was \$1.

[00:32:00]

Gwen: What kind of work did you do for Mr. Rouse?

Joy: Oh, we wrote the school paper.

Gwen: Oh. What was the name of the school paper then.

[00:33:00]

Joy: I don't know. Was it Tenderfoot? I don't remember. All my typing then he had paper and he'd say, "Oh, you can use this paper," and I used that with my typing.

Gwen: Did you feel left out at all when you couldn't go to have a Coke?

Joy: I was never left to feel that we were deprived of anything. Some way, some how they always managed, I guess.

Gwen: Did you belong to any organizations in school? Did they have any?

Joy: There wasn't ...

Gwen: Did they have any organizations?

Joy: Oh, yeah. I belonged to, now what was that? Something about the girls. The girls ... What was that?

Gwen: Was it Girls Reserve.

Joy: Yeah, yes! Uh-huh (affirmative).

[00:34:00]

Gwen: What do you remember about that?

Joy: I don't remember. See, I'd always go home on weekend and I just wanted to. There wasn't anything here.

Gwen: You mentioned about going to dances. Was that when you were in school or was that after school.

Joy: That was during the Depression. When they say, I've danced at the Sand Park. I've danced at the Doby or- What's the one under reservations now? Up here on the airport road?

Gwen: The old school they're going to refurbish?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: I can't tell you what the name of it is, but I know.

[00:35:00]

Joy: We went to Maysville and Alder, Bonanza, Villa Grove. That was our main thing. Of course, if you got to go once a month that was a big deal.

Gwen: How did you get there or did you have a date?

Joy: Well, we had that Shasta. Part of the time I had a boyfriend. The boyfriend made \$2 and a half a day so we'd have to meet at the different- Oh, and an elderly man, just a prince, saw that we got to go.

Gwen: You and your sister?

Joy: Oh, my sister and a neighbor girl and her brother. He just took a carload of us.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). You didn't have to have a date to go to the dance then?

[00:36:00]

Joy: Oh, no. My father inherited a set of drums. I've still got them out here. He got so he'd pound and anybody that could play a chord that was our music. They'd look the crowd over and if there were enough men they'd charge them a nickel and that'd pay for daddy's gas. If there weren't that many they'd have to maybe charge them a dime, but it paid for the gas to wherever he was going. They'd all figure it out. I danced a lot.

Gwen: What kind of dancing did you do?

Joy: Just anything. Oh, we got into square dancing and my brother-in-law learned how to call a square and we'd have 1 or 2 of those in the evening.

[00:37:00]

Gwen: Did the same band play for each kind of-

Joy: Well, then I got so I took music lessons. Let's see, oh, in 1935 we brought my sister over here to graduate. She had been able to take the first few years of high school there at Alder because they just done that and I remember, oh, I took from Mrs. Rhodes- Do you remember Frances Rhodes?

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: Bless her heart. She would give me music lessons and then I could practice on her piano so I could put 2 notes together. Some way, some how, I got started playing the piano and my sister had taken enough saxophone lessons that she could play the saxophone. We got to playing for some years and I played for at least 10 years for dances.

[00:38:00]

Gwen: Who kind of directed the band or was anybody in charge?

Joy: I said they just need somebody, the dancers, to start them and somebody to stop them and that's the way we done. I played for many and many free parties.

Gwen: Did they have a lot of parties then?

Joy: Oh, somebody would get married or somebody'd be leaving the country. Then you'd have a get together.

Gwen: Was that during Prohibition?

[00:39:00]

Joy: I mean, yeah, they could drink. Well, until we had- Is that thing still running?

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: Well, we played at Villa Grove and we had such good, good crowds. Oh boy, they'd better have a good orchestra so we gave up that and we went down to Mear Ridge. That was just a dance place out of Moffat there. We had wonderful, wonderful crowds. Disciplined, well-disciplined. Then we lost my mother. Well, the last week we played I played 4 times in 1 week. Well, you don't want a marriage and a mother and still be out that much.

[00:40:00]
Gwen: When was that when you quit playing then?

Joy: Oh, when mother died. We figured it up, but ...

Gwen: I think it was '48.

Joy: Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Did you ever play in Salida?

Joy: Oh yeah.

Gwen: Where did you play here?

Joy: Oh, up over at Waggener's Drugstore.

Gwen: Oh, upstairs there?

Joy: Yeah. I remember that because one time we had a hard time getting a parking place close enough to unload the drums and all of that.

Gwen: That's at 1st and F.

[00:41:00]
Joy: One of our family stood in the parking place while the others drove around the block and came back ... Oh, and we played at Brown's Canon.

Gwen: Now, when you say Brown's Canon, where in Brown's Canon? Was there a school or?

Joy: Yeah, yeah. There was a school there and Sand Park. We played down at Hooper. I think Hooper was the farthest, but then we played Saguache quite a bit.

Gwen: Where was the school at Brown's Canon? Where was it located?

Joy: It's there to the left, that brick.

Gwen: Is that off of highway 291?

Joy: Wait a minute now, they connect. Oh, they connect there. 291 and 280 ...

Gwen: 5?

Joy: Yeah, 5 in that brick building there.

[00:42:00]

Gwen: That isn't what used to be King's Crossing.

Joy: Yeah, but no, that's a different building because it's on the right and the Brown's ...

Gwen: Oh, I know where you mean now. It is almost across from what used to be a restaurant now. It's closed now.

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Okay, I know where you mean. Because the old road came in there, didn't it?

Joy: Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Do you remember when they rebuilt the highway?

Joy: I can remember when they built the highway over through the San Luis Valley.

Gwen: Poncha Pass?

Joy: Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Do you remember what year that was?

Joy: Uh-uh (negative). I can remember the train going out of- The last day of the trains over there.

Gwen: Do you have any idea what year that was?

[00:43:00]

Joy: Oh, let's say, what? Let's see, '53? We used to, my kids used to watch the train and I think they could have been 2 or 3 years old or something, right along in there.

Gwen: Okay. Can you tell me anything else about your high school days?

Joy: No. Like I say, I didn't go to very many football games because the first place I couldn't afford it. In the second place, we didn't want to stay in town. We wanted to get back over on the ranch. There was more excitement over there than there was ...

Gwen: In town, huh?

Joy: Yeah.

Gwen: Do you remember any celebrations that Salida had? Special celebrations?

[00:44:00]

Joy: Oh, they used to have a circus and my dad had to go to the circus whether 10 feet of snow or not.

Gwen: Where did they have the circus?

Joy: I don't know. It seems to me like it was downtown somewhere. They'd put up a tent.

Gwen: Would have been where the baseball field is now, do you think?

Joy: No, I don't remember that.

Gwen: Well, tell me when you were married.

Joy: I was married April 6, 1947.

Gwen: Who did you marry?

Joy: Clarence Humes.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Can you tell me about your children when they were born?

Joy: I have a little stepdaughter and I have twin boys. You were probably working at the hospital, were you? When I had the twin boys.

Gwen: What year were they born?

Joy: In '50.

[00:45:00]

Gwen: No, I wasn't there yet.

Joy: Oh.

Gwen: They were born in 1950, what date?

Joy: The 5th.

Gwen: Of?

Joy: February.

Gwen: February 5th. Your husband had a child then before you were married?

Joy: Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: Her name is Sharon.

Joy: Humes.

Gwen: When was she born?

Joy: February 14, 1946.

Gwen: What were the twin boys' names?

Joy: Lary and Gary. 1 R, you've got 1 R.

Gwen: In Lary?

Joy: Lary is 1 R.

Gwen: All right. Were they ever married?

[00:46:00]

Joy: Lary was killed in an auto accident and Gary has never married.

Gwen: Does he live here in Salida?

Joy: Does he? No, he's a principal in Trinidad.

Gwen: Oh, okay. What about Sharon?

Joy: She's in Aurora.

Gwen: Were they born in the hospital?

Joy: Dr. Hoover always called them his miracle children. They weren't expected to live. The 2 of them didn't weigh 7 pounds together.

Gwen: They were very small then?

[00:47:00]

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative). Well, 1 doctor wrote his thesis on care of babies or humans and he become a very famous doctor, I hear.

Gwen: Do you know what his name was?

Joy: Shepherd, Jack Shepherd. Did you ever know him?

Gwen: No. Did he practice medicine here?

Joy: No, he was a- You know, I lost contact with him. He was in Colorado Springs and he was taking a course there and he would come visit me every short time because he was writing, I guess it's a thesis, on care of children.
[00:48:00]

Gwen: Was it because it was a multiple birth and they were small or do you know?

Joy: I don't know. Of course, I was, what? 35? I've thocked that up. I was 37 when they were born.

Gwen: You were older than most mothers for their 1st baby.

Joy: Yeah, yeah.

Gwen: Now, tell me a little bit about the children.

Joy: Well, they both went to high school here. All 3 of them went to high school here. Lary went to Vietnam after graduating and he came home after, what? 2 years or whatever. Then he went to college in Pueblo and was killed in a car accident. Gary graduated from Western State and, well, he got almost his Ph.D. at Greeley. He's taught, what? 30 some years now. He's taught in the University of Greeley.
[00:49:00]

Gwen: Well, tell me a little bit about the downtown area, what you remember about it?

Joy: At Salida.

Gwen: Uh-huh (affirmative). Some of the stores and some of the people.

Joy: Well, I can remember about Everybody's.

Gwen: Okay, tell me about Everybody's and where it was located.

Joy: Well, if you wanted anything you could buy it.

Gwen: Who were the people that ran it?
[00:50:00]

Joy: Bud's. Cooper and Bud's, Dr. Bud's mother and aunt. I have to tell you about- You've gotten me to talking. I have to tell you about a little store in Saguache. You could buy anything, anything there and I wanted some little safety pins, gold safety pin, and I went in and I thought, "Oh, boy," and I looked at the wicker baskets on the floor and I went out and took off my silk stockings because stockings was a prize and I took them off and went back in the store

and hunted until I found my pins.

Gwen: Because you were afraid you were going to get a run in your hose?

Joy: Going to get a runner. I wasn't going to get a runner.

Gwen: Was that during the war?

Joy: Huh?

Gwen: Was that during the war?

[00:51:00]

Joy: Oh, that was during the Depression, I guess. I think of that so often, taking my socks off.

Gwen: Do you remember where Everybody's was located?

Joy: Yeah, it'd be across the alley from Crews Beggs. Then the last time it was over, let's see Tuttle's Trading Post used to be in there. What's in there now? It was on the ...

Gwen: It was between 2nd and 3rd on F Street.

Joy: Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative). That was quite the store, too.

Gwen: Another place you had mentioned was Y & R where you bought the Plymouth.

Joy: Well, they're the ones that gave my dad the car.

Gwen: Right. Where was that located?

[00:52:00]

Joy: Oh, where Actionwear? Is that what they call it? Across from the senior center.

Gwen: That would be 3rd and F. Who ran that? Do you remember?

Joy: Well, Bob O'Haver was the main one and his sister, Veva Young. They were very, very good friends of ours.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What other stores do you remember?

Joy: Oh, we had a ... What was the one down on 2nd and F on the corner across from Lallier's? My mother run the boarding house when we were building the dams and she'd go in there to do the grocery shopping. That was some kind of a store and then little Safeway I think is what went into.

[00:53:00]

Gwen: I remember it at Boy's Market, but I don't know what was before that.

Joy: Yeah, that was up. Yeah.

Gwen: Do you remember who ran the store?

Joy: Cup, no. No, that don't sound right.

Gwen: Kerndt?

Joy: That don't sound right. I can't think of who.

Gwen: Can you think of any other businesses that you were in very often?

Joy: Oh, the (First National) Bank was up on the corner. I'm kind of maybe stretching it, but was his name Ford White? He was another one of my dad's very good friends.

[00:54:00]

Gwen: That was on west 2nd and F, right? Where the bank sets back and it set right up on the curb?

Joy: Yeah, I think. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Gwen: He was there a long time, right?

Joy: Yeah. I told you I'd rattle. I can remember when times got better my dad gave me \$400 to put in the bank and I had an old leather rain coat and I put that on and I put that \$400 in my pocket. It went down. Now, of all the risks, but, no. Ford White was a very good friend of my dad's.

Gwen: How long did you keep the \$400 in the bank? Did they pay you interest then?

[00:55:00]

Joy: I don't remember, but I just got to thinking, after I'd done that I thought, "How careless!"

Gwen: Do you remember any special events or accidents or something that really stuck out in your mind about something that's happened in Salida since you've been here?

Joy: Uh-uh (negative).

Gwen: No bank robberies or anything like that?

Joy: Uh-uh (negative). No. We're thankful we live in Salida.

Gwen: Tell me about that. Why are you so thankful you live in Salida?

Joy: Yeah, because you couldn't get any better. I know we bought this piece of
[00:56:00] ground for \$500 and \$10 to survey it.

Gwen: Here?

Joy: This piece of land that we've got here.

Gwen: How many lots do you have here?

Joy: 3.

Gwen: What year did you say? Was that '49?

Joy: We started it in 1949, but we moved in here- Wait a minute. No, no, no, no.
1949 because we moved in here February 5, 1958. The boys were 8 years old.

Gwen: You worked on it for 8 years?

Joy: Huh?

Gwen: Did you work on it for 8 years? Or you just had the lot that long?

[00:57:00]

Joy: No, no. We bought it in '57 then. We bought in August and then they started it
and we rented until it was built.

Gwen: Where did you rent?

Joy: Well, you couldn't buy a house or you couldn't rent a house and we didn't want
to put any money in a rent and we lived up by the water works, the doctor.
What doctor who's out there now? We lived on the corner there.

Gwen: On, let's see. That's-

Joy: I don't know, but anyway. Well, we rented there because it had a lot of sheds
and we had so much junk that we needed a shed. Well, why in the Sam hill
didn't we sell it in the first place or give it away instead of renting for the darn
shed?

[00:58:00]

Gwen: I don't know.

Joy: Then the reason we bought here, we were looking for our transfer from Alder to
Salida, but Clarence was 2nd on the eligible list.

Gwen: What was his job?

Joy: Highway, working pat-

Gwen: Highway maintenance?

Joy: Highway maintenance, yeah. We looked and we wanted the land across from
[00:59:00] here, Shewalter's, but they got a chance to sell it so this lady on it she called me
up and wanted me to take it and I said, "Bessie, we don't know whether we're
going to get it and I don't want you to lose a sale." Well, she finally sold it so
then we came here and we saw this and it had old fence posts and wire and
broken trees and broken rocks and this Bessie said- She had been a wonderful
schoolteacher in Saguache. We said, "Well, would you sell us that?" "No," she
[01:00:00] said, "I won't sell it to you because it's trashy." Clarence kept telling her and
there was a stockyard just a block from here and an old, old dumpity garage
from here and finally, well, she said, "I'll let you have it for 500," and we
surveyed it for 10 so it cost us \$510.

Gwen: You said, they build it. Did someone build for you?

Joy: Yeah, we had-

Gwen: Do you remember who the contractor was?

Joy: Menas.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: He had built Provenza's.

Gwen: Stan Provenza?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative). Oh, my brother-in-law was working for him. This Menas
[01:01:00] was out of work. He didn't have a job so they started in our house and we feel
lucky. I feel lucky because my brother needed work and actually put in an extra
nail whenever he could. 2 or 3 of the men that worked with him had worked for
my father when they were young men. They done everything, too. Well, my
sister came along and she kind of designed it and she said, "Oh, don't put the
garage out there. It makes it look like a cow shed." She said, "Move it back,"
[01:02:00] which was ideal. We had a breezeway through there and somebody said, "That's
going to be nothing but a dirt catcher." Well, they got together and for \$80 they
enclosed it and put a floor in there. Somebody was sitting here and said, "Boy,
she sure would have a nice view if she had a bigger window," so somebody put
a window in for me. Kirby, you know Mr. Kirby?

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Howard Kirby?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative). Well, he was building and making cupboards and he had
some lumber left over and he wasn't working so he built some more cupboards.
It wasn't our house. It was their house.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sound like that worked out pretty well for you?

Joy: Oh, just worked out great. We got the place for \$13,510.

Gwen: Altogether it was about \$2000 for house and lot?

[01:03:00]

Joy: I mean, this one cost us 13 for the house, I think, and 5 for the land plus the survey was 10.

Gwen: It was 13,500 for the house and 510 for the lot and the survey.

Joy: No, 13 for the house, 500 for the lot, and 10 for surveying.

Gwen: Oh.

Joy: I think I'm right.

Gwen: That sounds about right. Going back to what you said about a stockyards being near here. Do you remember the exact location of that?

Joy: About where the patio is.

Gwen: Did they have auctions there?

Joy: Oh, yeah.

Gwen: Do you know who had that?

[01:04:00]

Joy: Yeah, I'll tell you in a minute. Oh, shoot. The brothers are twins. I think I'm right then. Oh, shoot. I can't remember the name. We had the lawn, we just put the lawn in when a cow got loose and it just come up and it went across our lawn. I didn't have any... Oh, they were twins and they had practically the same name. They had it for years.

Gwen: Did they have the stockyard down off of Highway 50, too?

Joy: No, it was just a very, very short time and they moved out there. See? We lucked out and it was a very, very short time that they tore down that old dilapidated garage, but there wasn't any houses here.

[01:05:00]

Gwen: In this block you're in?

Joy: No, we were the only house. Frazees owned this ground. Of course, you knew Frazees.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: I heard that he said, "I'll never sell those lots as long as there's boys in this community." Because he had Fred Provenza's boy and he didn't sell. Whether there's truth in that or not, but he didn't sell until our kids were out of high school.

Gwen: Well, now Mrs. Shewalter lived?

Joy: Right over here.

Gwen: Right behind you here across the alley? Then Frazees were the only other ones on this block?

[01:06:00]

Joy: No, there was 1 house between them. Oh, no, no, no, no. Who was the house between them? They had a dairy.

Gwen: Ulrich?

Joy: Huh?

Gwen: Ulrich?

Joy: Yeah, I kind of think, I think they had it. Then Frazees on the corner over there. Yeah.

Gwen: That faced D Street? They faced D?

Joy: Uh-huh (affirmative). This yard was full of boys all of the time because for us we were across the highway and Martinez's down below here or about where True Value is. They had 2 or 3 boys.

[01:07:00]

Gwen: You had a yard full of boys.

Joy: We always had a yard full of kids. Used to watch the trains come by. That was a big thing.

Gwen: Tell me about that.

Joy: Well, we didn't get a divorce, but we almost. Clarence'd have to work. He'd get Saturday afternoon off so I'd be ready to come to town with 3 little ones and we'd come to town, but we'd have to go watch the train come in before we could go to Safeway and shop.

Gwen: Was that because he liked trains so much?

Joy: And the little ones. They liked it, too, yeah. They always wanted to go see the train.

[01:08:00]

Gwen: Were there very many trains going through then?

Joy: Yeah, I guess. There used to be a train going through San Luis Valley right past the ranch.

Gwen: Do you miss the trains?

Joy: Hmm?

Gwen: Do you miss the trains?

Joy: One time it snowed so darn deep that to get back to school we were going to catch the train that went through my folk's ranch. I don't know how we remembered it, but anyway they stopped and put my sister and I on this train and just as we went to get on the little dog got on, too, and somebody grabbed it by the hind leg and kept it from coming to school with us. I can't remember how they knew to stop for us to pick us up to bring us back to school.

[01:09:00]

Gwen: Where did you catch the train?

Joy: Oh, you had to come to Salida.

Gwen: Oh, you came to Salida. It snowed so much here you got on the train to go home, then?

Joy: No, that was just to get on from, we'd been home for the weekend, I guess, and the train was going from down in the valley over to Salida, but I don't know where we ever ... Maybe we were just out there and looked pitiful and they stopped. I don't know.

Gwen: Because ordinarily they wouldn't have stopped there.

Joy: Yeah, oh no. Oh no. Uh-uh (negative).

Gwen: Did you know any of the train men?

Joy: Oh, no.

[01:10:00]

Gwen: On that train?

Joy: I guess. By going to school here and working in the valley I guess we knew practically everybody.

Gwen: Do you know where that train originated, where they started?

Joy: Well, it'd come straight up the valley from Alamosa to, well, because it went through Villa Grove. Where did it go? I'm pretty sure it went straight up the valley. It didn't go over to the highway, oh, the straight highway over here?

Gwen: Monarch?

[01:11:00]

Joy: No, the one that went down San Luis Valley to the right. What did they call that? Because it went, oh, I know I remember it went through Hooper so it must have gone just down to the left of us there. To the right is Sangre de Cristos all the way.

Gwen: Then it stopped here in Salida. Then did it go back or did it go someplace else?

Joy: No, it'd meet going to Minturn wouldn't it?

Gwen: Probably. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Joy: Because this would be the end. Oh, yeah, then it went up through Buena Vista and like that. Well, it couldn't go any farther because Tenderfoot.

Gwen: That way it couldn't.

[01:12:00]

Joy: It had to meet. It had to be south.

Gwen: Do you remember much about the railroad yards since you went down quite often?

Joy: I don't know. Well, Mr. Young of the Y and R worked for the railroad.

Gwen: Mm-hmm (affirmative). What have you noticed that's changed in Salida?

Joy: Huh?

Gwen: What have noticed that's changed in Salida? What kind of changes have you noticed?

Joy: Well, I've changed because everybody I knew has died. Oh, I don't know. It's just so much bigger. Every place has a Wal- Well, you used to have little stores around. You have big stores. You can't find a place to go park to go to church.

[01:13:00]

Gwen: Can you tell me a little bit about your church? Has it changed?

Joy: Yes. I don't feel like I'm the only one. They've just gone beyond.

Gwen: What do you mean they've gone beyond?

[01:14:00]

Joy: It's more social society. I don't know. Of course, I'm the- Oh, I think I am one of the oldest if not the oldest member who occasionally attends church. They tell me Bill Cook has gone there longer than I have. Naturally, I'm the- Well, they're just all gone.

Gwen: Was any of your social life around the church when you were younger? I mean, did they have get togethers, picnics, or anything?

Joy: Oh, yes, I've always been counting my blessings with the church because they were just a good, good group, I thought. We had dedicated teachers and when we joined they had a wonderful elderly group of people, but now, like I say, I'm about the oldest one. Bless your heart. There's my hummingbird. I just took my feeders down. Yeah, I think all churches have changed. What church do you go to? A person shouldn't ask that question anymore?

Gwen: Well, is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your life that we haven't covered?

Joy: Well, I think I got to know all the people in the San Luis Valley because during the Depression people were just about ready to lose their ranches and my father was one of the first to help start the Monte Vista Credit Production Association.

Gwen: Now, was that something that helped loan people money so they didn't-

Joy: The people and helped them work together. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gwen: Is it still going or do you know?

Joy: Yeah, they tell me it is. He didn't pay for the ranch by owing \$300 and he did that so he could keep a membership in this association. That way I got to know people.

Gwen: Do you think the weather has changed in Salida since you've-

Joy: Oh, definitely. Definitely.

Gwen: What kind of changes have you noted?

[01:17:00]

Joy: Well, you don't wear a pair of overshoes anymore. You don't even own a pair. Oh, it's changed all over.

Gwen: For those that don't know what overshoes are, can you tell me what they are.

Joy: You'd pull on another shoe that went over it and years ago they had a buckle when you put this tongue over and then you flapped this thing over here and that made it, you put it in. Then they got modern and you had zippers and you didn't go anywhere, 4th of July or otherwise, that you didn't take your overshoes.

Gwen: Because you didn't know what was going to happen, huh?

Joy: Yeah.

Gwen: Do you ever remember it snowing on 4th of July?

[01:18:00]

Joy: No, not quite, but my little girl got so she'd say, "Daddy, can we go if it don't snow?" It'd be 4th of July. Oh, yes. In the hay field we had a snow on the hay.

Gwen: In the fall?

Joy: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Well, yeah, September. Oh, yes, snow got so deep. Blizzards.

Gwen: The wind blows in Salida?

Joy: Yeah, yeah. Well, of course, I had overshoes here, but I never had a pair for my kids going to school. They had just never heard of it.

Gwen: Joy, before we end this do you remember any people we'd call characters that were a little different in Salida? Do you ever remember anybody that you would say was, well, we usually just say characters, but a little different. Didn't go to the same drummer?

[01:19:00]

Joy: Uh-uh (negative). I could give you two or three in Saguache, but that don't mean anything to you. I can't think. No. We knew them, of course, all the Hutchinsons, but they were upright people.