

HELEN WALTEMEYER FISCHER.

Transcript of OH0191. Recorded on November 21, 1972. The interviewer is Josie Heath.

[A].

JH: This is November 21st in an interview with Helen Fischer. Mrs. Val Fischer. And we're in her home at 707 12th Street in Boulder. Mrs. Fischer, were you born here in Boulder?.

HF: Yes, I ... No! No, I wasn't born here. At first, I was so far back, wondering if you asked me if I was born. And it I'd almost forgotten that. But I, no, I was born in Fall City, Nebraska. Part of my family's westward ho.

My family came out from Baltimore, Maryland where my grandfather had sold some of his holdings in his manufacturing plant-- a very successful canning plant that won the "gold medal" both at Paris and Philadelphia at the big exhibits. So it was a very prosperous concern and he came with what seemed then to be much money to the West, because he thought it would be fine if his son was out here to make his start in life. And they met all the tragedies and all the excitements of one coming west.

But westward ho was a little bit difficult because they built a big factory in Achinson, Kansas and there was a cyclone and everything was flattened out. So they thought, perhaps, from looking around, that another place would perhaps be better. So they moved up to Fall City, Nebraska, where I was born. So, that was one of the tragedies of the family, perchance. But at any rate, not for me--'cause I've always been glad to be alive. But there they built another factory and they got caught in the railroad strik, and couldn't get a single can through from the east.

So, waiting for all the cans to come for the factory--they had to because they'd already contracted all the fruits and the vegetables around in all the territory. And they had to just bring them in, pay the farmers and dump them out on the dump. And so we invited all the people from near and far and in the city to come and help themselves to vegetables and fruits of all sorts. And they never were able that year to get the cans through. So that they found that this was probably not the place for their business.

And they moved up to Omaha where my father had a position with the Standard Oil. And he became very interested in the YMCA movement. Because he had been at John Hopkins in the business department where he took things that would help him help his father in managing the business, and also played football. And so, he became quite a patron of YMCA of Omaha and helped to coach the teams and the swimming teams and so forth. So that when we came to Boulder, which my father did in 1897, and we did in 1899, to live. Then he was

immediately very much interested in pushing the YMCA further and he opened his office when they had difficulty of finding anyone that would take over and turned over his secretary. And together with the people of Boulder and the churches and so forth, they had a great big clock out in front of his office and they kept the hand moving up and up until it reached almost what they'd planned-on \$30,000. So they called it \$29,000 and something. And I think my father promised the rest. Of course, I remember that he said that he was always owing it because he didn't have a thousand dollars to turn in for that time.

But in later years I met a friend on the street, an old, old gentleman, and he said, "How's your father?" And I said, "Father's gone" and he said, "Well, he was a fine man. He had a hard time paying that YMCA thousand." But he said, "I knew he'd pay it. And he did." So he had, he boosted it.

But that was the kind of life we had--ups and downs through the days. But we had so many friends, lots of nice boys. And we said we didn't need any money because the, boys took the girls out in those days. 'Course today that'd be different, too. Every girl has to have a lot of "mad money" if not money to pay her share to go to the movies, I understand. But life changes. And perhaps that is just as fair. And if we're going to talk lib all the time, well then, of course, we've got to remember you've got to have your own streetcar fare. (laughter).

JH: Now you said that your father came to Boulder in 1897 and then he brought the family out a little later?

HF: Yes, yes, he did. And early in 1898 he was a director on the board of the little railroad that went up to Ward and to, um, into the mountains and later into Eldora. And we had passes on the little railroad. And it was called the "Switzerland Trail." Very, very lovely little ride we were to take.

I always remember a funny story that we told many times. Our friend had been on one of the expositions on "See the Switzerland Trail." And you could look down and see three or four different railroad beds. So it was quite exciting. And then he went back into the train, it was starting down. And there was a little old lady sitting there--about my age, I guess, now. But she (inaudible) sitting calmly. And this young fellow said, "Oh, come on now. It's beautiful scenery! Don't you want to come out and see?" She said, "I saw the scenery goin' up" (laughter) So that was our idea about the appreciation. But we all appreciated the mountains so much.

When we first came out, we, several summers we came up to Nederland, where Father had that mill at the Boulder County mine, all of which has now disappeared. And at that time, we felt that it was the most wonderful thing to get up there in the mountains. And we didn't know whether we'd want to come to

Boulder or anything about it. But Father's interest got solid and made him come to Boulder for some years. And so we became Boulderites and loved it ever since.

JH: Now did you live at Nederland at one time?

HF: Well, we lived there almost one year, before we came down to Boulder. We had many experiences with the deep snow and thought it was a wonderful thing to be up that high. I think that's why my sister and I grew so much--'cause we'd walk up and down the hill.

And so while we were there, one day a little girl came by and we were visiting with her. And we were talking something about the war, how awful the war was. And we said, "Don't you think it's awful to have war?" Well, she said, "I don't know. I just came to Nederland." So she didn't know anything about it, you see.

But in Boulder we found very happy times going through the grade school. I have two sisters and the three of us have enjoyed the grades, and the high school, and the University from which we all graduated. And through the years, we've more and more been watching the growing of Boulder and feel ourselves that Boulder was still the most beautiful city that we'd ever seen. And pushed up against the mountains, always a lovely view as you looked out the window, but not back in the mountains. What we decided-- life is better and bigger if you're not just tucked back in the mountains where you can't see the city as well as...

JH: You mentioned that you lived in a house that was close to the mill. Was this a mill house?

HF: Yes. Because Father was there, interested in the mine, which he had good interest in. Supposedly, the ore was brought down to the mill, you see.

JH: Now, what kind of mine was it?

HF: They were finding all sorts of what later turned out to be tungsten. But they didn't understand that. They were having, I think, some lead and silver and gold. But the time came that Mr. Barnsval, the great oilman, who also had an interest in the mill and the mine, and he was taking over. So Father, at that time, sued him for what he had put into it. And of course, my mother, being the modest Baltimorian, was very shocked to have Father think of suing a many times millionaire.

So he won his case. And so we walked out of Nederland without much damage.

And we certainly had beautiful times, for time after time. In the summer, we'd take many bunches of girls up for weekends or for a week's visit and so forth. My

mother owned the town site in Nederland for many years until during the tungsten boom.

We went back and forth occasionally from Boulder to Nederland. And it took about three hours. And we'd have a team of horses. And my father would have a, get a double surrey so that we could go back and forth. But when we finally left Nederland, we had, you went clear over to Blackhawk and to Rollinsville in order to use our passes on the railroad.

So, on it goes and a, we became Boulderites of which I am the only one of the family still here.

JH: Well, fine. Now where did you move in Boulder when you came down?

HF: Well, we went down to Pine Street on the corner--1735 Pine Street--just below the Helms house. And we became great friends with Mrs. Helms and Miss Whitely. And because we'd walk up and talk to them when they were out watering the lawn, then we would sit on the big stone out in front. And, of course, we all know that they were one of our most prominent families. And their home there should be in the annals of the great and interesting homes. And one of, Miss Whitely married Dean Helms. And, um, so they were a couple of the (inaudible) citizens of that time.

We lived at 1735 Pine Street and we had a tennis court in our yard and we had a croquet court and everybody would come and play there. And it was filled of laughter and screaming and all the little battles that one gets if you push the ball a little bit when you play, when we were playing the games.

JH: Now your sisters were what age and what age were you at this time?

HF: Well, I think, well, I, if somebody's good at mathematics, they could tell me how old I was when we finally settled in Boulder. We were going and coming for about two or three years-- but back to Omaha where we lived, you see. And so I started in the fourth grade, picked it up there, you see.

JH: In Boulder?

HF: In Boulder, yes.

JH: I see.

HF: And then my sisters, one in the fifth and the other in the sixth.

JH: So that you were all a year apart?

HF: Just a year apart, yes.

JH: And your sisters' names are?

HF: My sister Marie. Marie Claridge Waltemeyer. Francis Barrett Waltemeyer, named after our relative, shall we say, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, who was a cousin of our grandmother, and then I, who managed to get the name "Helen Mae," after my aunt. And we, the three of us went along as a sort of a triumvirate. Mother said when she used to take the three of us back to Baltimore on the train, the Pullman people and everybody were so kind, the porters and so forth. And they all thought, "A lady with triplets" -- because we were so near together. We had this beautiful life through the years, of course, the three girls.

JH: So your maiden name was "Waltemeyer." How do you spell that?

HF: W-A-L-T-E-M-E-Y-E-R. It was "Valtemeir" before they came over, but, of course, they came over very early to York Pennsylvania and then Grandfather Waltemeyer moved down to Baltimore. And they had large estates outside of Baltimore. And like we could think today of Boulder branching out. I can think of all these lovely friends out here, the Stengels and so forth, who own property and farms and that was the case in my great-great grandmother and so.

But one of the interesting tales we always heard was that she had all this estate. And after her husband died, the man, the lawyer, who was taking care of the estate was, um, realized that it was a very valuable thing because they had all that land and when they finally came to settlement, the night before, he shot himself. So much of that was dissipated and didn't come down in the family.

But, on the other side, our Grandfather Claridge was from Eastport, Maine and he was a ship chandler. And that was another interesting occupation of the time, which we might well write an article, all about different changes in occupations as the years have gone by. And I know that, a, my father said that the one time Grandpa Claridge had gotten a letter from a Philadelphia firm that said, "You've now just passed the mark of a billion dollars in (inaudible). It was such a big industry. And it was Loud-Claridge, and Mr. Loud was extremely wealthy. And more so, much, than my grandfather.

And so the point I would think of when I think about his business was that when my mother graduated from high school, and she was at that time engaged, then became engaged to my father, and my grandfather sent her to Europe for a trip before she should be married. And also the ship and the sailing vessel that would carry them was the "Alice Minerva." And my mother was the figurehead of that particular sailing vessel. And they called it the "Alice Minerva" which was her name.

Well, she went and then after a beautiful trip all around and so well cared for. There was an older cousin, they had take better care and go with her. And so

when they came home, my father and my grandfather and my grandmother were in New York down at the court waiting and waiting and waiting. And they had to wait three or four days and nearly lost their minds because, you see, the vessel hadn't come in. There was no radio, there was no chance of communication and they thought that maybe it'd gone down at sea. But finally, it came over the horizon and it came into port, and brought back these treasures that were on the boat. And it shows you what can be. They'd lost their wind and they had to lie at anchor, lie out at sea waiting and waiting for the wind to come up and then sail them into New York harbor. So let us say not "the good ol' days," but "Hooray for today!"

JH: So then your mother, this was your mother who had taken that trip?

HF: Yes.

JH: And so then...

HF: She was expected at the boat, you see--you haven't turned it off yet?

JH: No.

HF: Well, I don't know whether that'd be interesting to anybody, but things that pop in your mind you're supposed to say. But, that was a frightening experience. The "Alice Minerva" -- she was the figurehead.

JH: Well, after she came to Boulder, did she travel anymore when she was here? Did she ever go on vacation from here?

HF: Well, we went on vacations every, always up in Middle Park where Father had holdings up there. And we were up at just fifteen miles from Grand Lake. And we learned to do all this fancy dancing. (Sings while clapping).

"Dance your honey.

Pat him on the head.

If you can't get a biscuit.

Take your bread.

All many ding-dong.

Eight penny high ----- all gonna die."

We learned all of those things. And astonished--there was one Leahman in that part, and this Mr. Leahman would come and dance with first one of the three

Waltmeyer girls and then the next one and then the next one. And we would be thrown back in the seats exhausted and then he'd go off and get somebody else. And, as a matter of fact, he was really lame. So we always said we weren't made for that kind of dancing. But we used to enjoy the mountain dances every August when we'd go up to Monarch Lake.

And Father started Monarch Lake. He had it made there because of some lumber property back, so the logs could come down into this lake. And many people go; many of my friends go up there to Monarch Lake to fish. And he put in that lake up there. And so, he's been a bit of a pioneer and a very vigorous person and left his mark many places around wherever he was.

JH: Well, when he came to Boulder, what was his occupation then?

HF: Well, he'd been, um, you see, he had, um, he was with the Standard Oil, I think, in Omaha. I went down to his office when I was a little girl--I can remember just that much. Just like I can remember when I first listened to a telephone. A wonderful thing--we had a telephone. And then they let me listen. Why and I could tell it was my father, but it scared me to pieces-- the voice seemed so different, you see. I think they've gotten more natural now in the improvements of our telephones.

JH: Where were you when you first heard a telephone?

HF: We lived in Omaha, on Benny Street in a very nice house there, I remember. And, um, we had the telephone put in. And it scared me awfully. There it was. And Father was calling us down from the office because he was wanting to get a telephone put in. But that was, you see, would be about 19 probably, no, no, it'd be 18, 18 maybe 94 or 5 (1894 or 1895)--maybe '94. Yes.

JH: Now, when were you born?

HF: I was born in 1889--1888! I must be careful because it'd be awful to give the wrong age. 1888. July 27, 1888, which makes me 84 years last July 27th. And my sister was 85, and my other sister 86. And so, we've been a very vigorous family. We had no doctor when we were in Boulder. 'Course I acquired one later, but. (laughter) I married one. But, a, we never needed a doctor! And we never would know what to do if we had to have any cause of calling him, because we just didn't have anything the matter with us. We were a very vigorous family.

Of course, in college, I played basketball four years. And I proudly, with long bloomers and a white middie blouse, I sit in the picture in the University annual and show myself off holding a big ball as the captain of the University of Colorado basketball team.

But those days were very different from the present days because we looked so covered up. It was a wonder how we could move. And I was a running center and that made it more fun for me, you see. 'Cause I was pretty strong and all. And I always could look back and say that Coach Castleman thought I was very good. I never was sure I was and, of course, I didn't think I was as good as he thought. But he always said "You're excellent in basketball." And he had even picked out someone from Colgate that he thought would make a fine husband for me. (laughter) But anyway, I didn't. I was glad to be athletic. And one of my sister's boyfriends that would come up would always say, "Well, how's the athlete?" He always said that. But in later days, I haven't been as athletic and I certainly don't have anything like a real ability for tennis or any of those games. So, I guess, just running around was my best--which you do in basketball.

JH: Well now, in elementary school, did the girls participate in lots of sports too?

HF: Well, in elementary school the girls didn't participate in sports, no, I wouldn't say. But we played jacks, all the time. And so that your fingernails would be all worn off playing jacks. And I can remember playing it with one of my old friends, Helen Nathan. A member of one sweet family here in Boulder. And never once did I beat her. So, you see, it was a bit discouraging. I wasn't too good there.

JH: Now where did you go to elementary school?

HF: Went to school at the old Jefferson School--that was the prep school. The old prep school and the present prep school-- remember it's the liquor store now. But it was a--what was it? A grocery store, I think, in its earlier days.

JH: Where the Liquor Mart is now?

HF: Yes, "Liquor Mart" I think they call it. And it's down at the corner of 17th and Pearl. (The Liquor Mart is now located at the corner of 17th and Canyon Streets).

JH: Oh and that used to be the old public school?

HF: Yes. But the Jefferson School, which was also built of stone and looked much like Prep, was torn down and sold to some other buildings, you see, and then I think really the Safeway was once in that, the present prep school.

I had a wonderful time in prep school. And there I was very happy to feel that I was a part of things and was "head girl" at prep school. And so was my sister Francis--she was "head girl" of her class. We really love all the people we were in school with. Della Nicely and Mrs. Helms, who lived up at the end of the block when I, we first came to Boulder, was my teacher in Latin and Greek--a marvelous, marvelous teacher. And she would say that I was so good to my father.

But she said, "And I call it and I think she's got the intention and she always knows." And so that was great compliments.

And my father said, "Why do you have to be diverting like that and whispering and things and not pay attention?" "Well," I said, "I get a little bit tired when I just have to sit there." But anyway, so I passed very well. She thought I did well. Then, I have to mention these things when I can't mention very many in my life, when they thought I did so well, but I did get along and I loved it so much and, I guess, loved all my lessons.

And four of us girls, we got our lessons so beautifully. And we would make, we'd go every Saturday or so, and we didn't like it when the boys asked us places because we wanted to go and make a large, great big platter of fudge and eat most of it. We let the family have a piece or two. And every Saturday we'd make a big platter of fudge and translate our lessons even ahead of time.

So, we were good students and I graduated as salutatory, salutatorian of my class and I wrote my salutatory address in Greek--(speaks a Greek phrase)--and so forth and so forth. So that was interesting and I loved prep school and had what I consider a most wonderful education and my math teacher and so forth. And my math teacher told my father on the streetcar that "That girl should go on in mathematics--she's very bright in it." But, you see, I wasn't. But I, and I didn't dare to go on in mathematics because I wanted to enjoy my life in University by not having anything that would make me work so hard. And in mathematics you can't go on until you know what's the page before. You have to be ready for the next thing that comes up in mathematics. And I was scared to keep going on it.

But so, I had a very happy high school and I'm thankful for it. And I still say "three cheers" for Latin and Greek. It was so consecutive and so well given to me and I loved it all, you see. And then, of course, I loved University, but it was very scattered and different, quite different from my high school work. So (inaudible).

JH: Was there any question about where you would go to school or was it just thought that you'd go to the University?

HF: No. We took it for granted. At first they talked a bit about eastern schools. And a lady talked to my mother. She thought the girls, she said we were all such nice girls and all, but the honor of a finishing touch of an eastern school.

Well, of course, financially we couldn't do that, for we belonged to ups and downs. And at that time, we couldn't go on, you see, to another, consent to expensive school and all that it meant to really start out up there. So we never really thought about it. We loved it. And then decided we didn't want to go, you know. And we felt so much a part of everything at the University of Colorado.

JH: Did you live at home when you went to school?

HF: We always lived at home. We could never think of not living at home. That would have been atrocious in those days. And we didn't want to. Never thought anything about it.

We all belonged to the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Had a wonderful time. And, um, we had all sorts of associations. And had members of the different things. I was, um, the vice-president of the combined class three times--freshman, sophomore, senior. And that was considered a great, great honor in the University. And on the annual (yearbook) board. And this, this, this, and that. And that's not interesting, but, I mean it shows that I took part in the life about me. I just loved the University. And, a, got so much out of it.

Then, after I was married why a, and I, um, did some work with Dr. Fischer and he thought some more work for his B.S. And also I helped him in that comparative psych, in some work we did. And I did my own, took my own work to major in philosophy and minor in literature. Got my master's degree. And then I got started on a few more hours, but decided it was foolish. We were married and I, he needed, a rising young doctor needs a wife to help him.

JH: Well, before we get to that, can you tell me just a little bit about when you finished the University? Did you intend to take any career, or did you study for any special thing?

HF: I got my ring at the end of my junior year. Just at commencement. And then I, Dr. Fischer was a, I was engaged to Dr. Fischer, you see. And I knew that that was in the skyline. And, but I was all prepared. I had taken my, all my secondary, all my necessary education credits and I was going to teach for a year, at least, which I did. And that was very interesting things because my older sister was teaching in Leadville and in a high school. And I took the examinations for the county board and I passed them. And I had these other credits, so I didn't have any trouble getting a position when I called up to see if I couldn't get a position. And I ended up by teaching the first grade which I highly enjoyed and had very happy success in that.

But the thing was, that I would have taught something else, you see. I was planning to go on into some Latin teaching and some other types of languages for the present, a then slip on into some other subjects later, I thought. But I changed it because that was a good job for the first grade and they accepted me. And then having a third sister, why we called up-- "But we have another sister." So superintendent of schools in Leadville, Mr. Austin, said, "Well, if she's as nice as your father, why send her along." I said, "Well, she hasn't her credits for the" but she said, "but she has a beautiful voice." And Francis who had the leads in all, for four years at the University, in all the operas. And (inaudible phrase) of

UC was dedicated to her by the man who wrote it. And outstanding. Well, that was something to take to the city. And she most generously sang in all the different places where she was called when she was up in Leadville. And the three of us had a wonderful time.

JH: Where did you live in Leadville?

HF: Well, in Leadville, we spent the night on the, at the, what I think was called the Van Dohn (Vendom) Hotel. Anyway, it's a good, old, solid old-fashioned hotel. Well, then we had two big beds in it. And, a, so that we could have this great big room with the beds the first night we arrived there on the little train to Leadville.

And, um, we then walked out and thought we'd get something to eat, as usual. And we were walking along those great, big, long, twelve foot planks, that were wobbledy, wobbledy as you went, to go up to a place where they said you could get something to eat or some ice cream or something. And the first thing we did as we walked along was to stumble over a drunk man that scared us to death because we had had very mild experiences in Boulder-- nothing of that sort. So, our introduction was really quite scary.

But we found a place to live and there too, we just loved it. And loved the people, and all the view and all the things you could do there. My sisters very soon climbed Mount Massive and they wouldn't let me go 'cause I was sort of getting a cold. We had heard tales of everybody getting pneumonia who go to high places like Leadville. And it's very dangerous because, we thought, people always were dying of pneumonia. So the girls wouldn't let me climb. But I had it on them because we found later that Mount Massive's five feet lower than Mount Elbert, which is the highest peak in Colorado. So that I always feel, well, I was justified 'cause if I climb, I'm going to climb Mount Elbert. But I never did.

JH: How long were you in Leadville?

HF: We, a, I was in Leadville to teach that year. And we all were reappointed, and Fran was in Leadville then.

But Fran gave a big concert at the Elks. We'd never known about Elks Clubs much. But they were perfectly wonderful to Frannie. Because she sang for them always. And they appreciated it so much.

And when we had, my mother came up in the middle of the year 'cause Father was in New York. And came up and kept house for us. And we rented the house of the electric manager who was going south for the winter. And, a, and we had a tea there for the church or some of the ladies' groups and all of a sudden there was a knock on the door. It was silver (inaudible word) and every member of the Elks Club--they were meeting that same night--came in and put a

silver dollar in the tray and said they appreciated so much how much Frannie had done in singing for them.

And we had weird things that showed the times. Fran, with her good voice, was invited by a something, a movie house--it was just opening. They had just been having movies maybe a year or so. And they weren't, we're not sure whether they were just respectable or what. But anyway, the manager came and begged her to come and sing. If she would sing anything she wanted to, he said, if she would sing twice at a performance--at the beginning and end of a performance--that he would pay her \$75 a week. And, of course, she wanted to make money because exchequer was low, as it often was in our family, ups and downs. We had many, many things and because it always went pretty high when it went up, why we managed to get along while it was down.

But anyway, she would have that money coming in besides her teaching. But my mother and all, and my sister and Francis herself felt it wasn't quite the thing to do. But I, being off to the left, just begged them and said, "It's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. You want to go down and, and study music in New York and have to make all the money somewhere and here's your chance! Mother could go with you and sit there while you're singing." And so-forth. No, they thought it was, and my mother felt, as a very proper Baltimorean, that it was not anything she wanted her daughter to do.

So that put the taboo was on that the singing and the movie and she thought later, though, in a way it was compensated because at the, when she wanted to give a concert before she left Leadville, the Elks committee who owned the theater came and said, "Well, Miss Waltemeyer, you contributed so much this year. And we want you to have your concert at the theater and all and to know that there'll be no charge." So he, they opened the theater for her and she made a nice big three figured income for (inaudible). And that very much helped her in going to New York.

And once she got to New York, she found a position very soon singing in a Yonkers Church. And she studied under Dameraux, who let her start out immediately on arias because she had such good voice control and so forth. So she had a very happy year there.

And Marie went on with her teaching--a very excellent teacher. Always reading, reading and making everybody feel that she was their friend. And studying more and more of the social justice and the ideas there. And after a year on Henry Street in New York with the position of social work, she had many very, very kind experiences that she made possible. Why, she is now in Leadville. And has been continuously reading, reading--a better reader, I've never known. And on, after very much aware of the needs of the people--I'm very proud of her.

JH: Well, you mentioned that you know women's interest in social justice. Were women involved in causes, if you will, during this time that you're talking about, in Boulder?

HF: Well, I, now for instance--the Woman's Club. The Woman's Club of Colorado is the cause and the instigator of our Mesa Verde project down in the lower part of the state. Their ideas, for a long time, were to, um, oh, to make parks, to give schools for children, to give day nurseries--gradually day nurseries came in. And all of those human things. And many things to do with music and the arts. But they didn't have the awakening to civil rights that we later had. That was slow coming.

And we had, of course, the bloomer girls, which were really a little ahead of me. And they were really standing up for the rights of women. And I think that's one side--that we must have the rights of all, that the whole people of the world is not only America. Everywhere we need to have justice and protection and interest in other people.

In fact, my idea of a real human being is one who has a happy time and enjoys life as he goes along, but also knows it's a two-way street and that the other fellow is a part of the world just as well and that we are nobody if we do just for ourselves, but rather must do for others also--and then you are happy, you know. And then you can laugh a lot, and I like to laugh.

JH: Well, you mentioned about the bloomer girls. Can you remember about when women earned the right to vote? Was there great excitement about this or was it ...??.

HF: In 19, when was it? In 1921? After the world war, I mean the first World War, you know. I think it was along in there. I should know and I probably did know, if you'd asked me, but I'm just a little

JH: Was there great working toward this or great interest in it here or did you feel like that?

HF: Well, I was very young and I used to laugh at bloomer girls and things like that, you see. And, um, not very young, no, I wasn't 21, but along through the years, I mean, I was young. And it was, we laughed kind of at it. And I think that to me, they didn't mean much 'cause I didn't know their philosophy, you see. And then, we got to thinking about the right to vote. And Mrs. Kostigen and I know Josephine Rhodes, all of those people were constantly fighting for it and were marching in parades and so forth.

And Carey Chapman Cat, who was really the leader of it, was hailed by women right and left and in many clubs. But many were incensed that anybody taking a

stand wasn't lady-like to take that kind of a stand. They didn't understand it, you see, they just felt so much more lady-like than not, to just keep out of such.

But anyway, I felt, I prize now when I went down to New York, to Washington as a state president of Federated Women's Clubs for Colorado, and to the cause and cure of war way back in 1930, I guess. I had the pleasure of sitting in the Wilson, the old Wilson Hotel, with Carey Chapman Cat and her secretary. And we sat there and visited and talked for about three quarters of an hour one evening, after dinner, before the meetings were going to open. And so I did get to see her personally. And a lovely person and very humorous and fine.

And I always remember she told at that time a joke that she often told. That the reason when she married, was married and she went on with her work, which was to get equal rights for women and equal rights for the world. And someone asked her, "Mrs. Cat, doesn't your husband mind your always signing everything 'Carey Chapman Cat'? " Doesn't he like to have you use his name sometimes?" And she said, "Well, you know my husband's name is 'Thomas'." So everybody always understood that the social suffrage people were supposed to be fighters and that she couldn't be "Mrs. Tom Cat." So, and I love to remember that visit I had with her.

And I loved to have the visit that I had with Clarence Darrow when I was vice-president of the anti-capital punishment group for Colorado, with Mrs. Gabe, Attorney Gabriel of Denver, who was the president. And we were trying to sell memberships, and here and there talk down capital punishment. And I remember because of my position only, that I was a vice-president with the state thing, why, I got to sit by Clarence Darrow. And to feel that I had been very fortunate being able to be near such a worthy man as one who had taken the stands that he did in that period and also several other lawsuits all over the country. I think he did have a relative or other--someone over in Greeley. Maybe a son or something. But that was a great experience.

So, doing things, if one does, being on the Parks Board of Colorado, appointed by the governor, and all of the things that I've done, which aren't too many, why, everything that you do, if you do with a purpose of making things better, I think that you get so much out of them. And I wished that I'd had more to give.

JH: You've mentioned a great deal of involvement. Was it customary for women to be involved on levels like this? What did other women think about it?

HF: Well, a lot of them think it's much better to be at home. And, of course, you're so busy if you were that kind of a woman, making little pretty things for the parties and things, that you didn't have a chance to do anything else. I don't know that they always, in their hearts, were agin' it. But, a, I think that, um, probably they didn't have time to study it. But I think there were some that thought you were aggressive and too outspoken and so forth. But I don't think

anyone minds criticism. What you mind is not having your cause pushed--that's all, I think, that bothers. Because you're critical of your own self as well as them, because you're not doing all you'd like to do.

I was fortunate in being a very good friend of Senator and Mrs. Costigan, who were as lovely people and as wonderful, unselfish, aware of the other fella as a few of (inaudible phrase) people I've ever met in my life. I think everybody'd say that of them. And, um, I was friendly with them. And we had a joke. That often when I would be at their house and be with them somewhere, the Senator would let me, a, sit at his right hand, not because I'm important, but because I could eat his nuts, because he didn't eat nuts. We had that joke. And so, you see, they were very kind.

We were (inaudible phrase) with Oscar Chapman, and later the honorable Oscar Chapman of Interior, Secretary of the Interior, and I and John McCarrol (Carroll?) were their "children," you see, coming along with fighting the cause for everybody's having an opportunity a bit more through these, as the next generation. And we couldn't say enough lovely things about Mabel Costigan and Senator Costigan, and all the understanding and kindness they represented.

So the days go by and here we are. (laughs).

JH: You had mentioned to me once before about involvement on labor too, and...

HF: Yes, yes, I was very much interested in labor problems. I was very much interested in the sugar beets problems. And every time they would have a hearing from Washington, the Harvard professor would come back--Mr. Bacon, I think his name was, professor from Harvard was in charge under Roosevelt, President Roosevelt. And he'd come out and would put on a sort of a paintbrush or something like that (inaudible). And I'd make a speech. I'd go to Greeley or somewhere about for the beet workers, you see. And he'd always laugh, "Hello, Mrs. Fischer, you gonna talk to us today?" And I said, "If it helps, I will." And so he'd always see that I got on. So, somewhere someone told me, president, one of the presidents of the University, someone told them, that in some of the archives somewhere there was something, some speech that I had spoken, and I think it must have been on the sugar problems issue.

JH: Now you were speaking on behalf of the workers?

HF: Oh yes, the beet workers, yes. And the conditions in which [they worked] and the prices they got. Everything and all-- everything contingent on the proposition of the beet worker. So.

JH: Who were these workers?

HF: They were mostly, of course, imports from Mexico, brought in and never go back, most of them. And the many, many children, you see. And, um, and they really were not receiving what they should. And there were hard times to get the, their money. And the dirt floors of some (inaudible). How do you call it a dwelling, you see, just a little something over their heads mostly. They were really in very bad conditions. And they were then on the state, on the country, 'cause most of them didn't go back, you see. They had to find some other kind of work. So it was bad condition all around.

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And, um, the whole understanding between the beet workers and the beet manufacturers, beet companies had to be gone into. And there were not so many things that would criticize, perhaps as it would seem. But there had to be a getting together to understand each other, which gradually came along and with the introduction of machinery in weeding the beets and this and that. It became a proposition of really almost starvation of a lot of beet workers.

JH: How did you become interested in this?

HF: With Senator Costigan who pushed the sugar bill, you see. And he also made a great point of the import of sugar from Cuba. Because the sugar coming into this country from Cuba bought, made the farms buy bacon and, um, meat, and very many things that we produce here much more, which is much more money for your farmer than to have let a little, certain amount of sugar come in. But that became quite a war. They didn't think any sugar should be allowed to come in. But it had to be manipulated that way. Because there were little people, Cuba was starving, you see, because it was the beet workers there, there were sugar workers there.

And, of course, in the South we had the sugar cane, which was in a way much less expensive to produce, because from each one of the knuckles when they planted it, up would come the sugar cane.

And here you had to replant and have several movements that you didn't with sugar cane, and weeding and so forth. So, for a long time, a lot of people felt that sugar cane should be the (inaudible word) and not be imported.

Mr. Boettcher imported the idea of growing beets from Europe, you see, where they were in Germany and so forth, where they were carrying on. That's where they got the sugar. But we already had a sugar cane idea down there. And the, oh, many things I could say, because I learned my sugar very carefully. And after studying very hard, I had a nice compliment from Senator Costigan, who said, "Helen, you certainly know your sugar." (laughs) So, I don't know what that meant exactly, but it made me feel that I learned my lesson pretty well. But a ...

JH: Now where were they working and living?

HF: All over--Longmont, and the edge of, out here, Erie, and Boulder all around, just the edges there and on into Greeley, Weld County and a. So they were all through, clear up to north, you see. And so there were many beet fields. And the, they were, of course, a proposition of selling to the, raising the things and then the sugar company, for a long time, had sort of set the price, you see. And therefore, it had to go into the government to look after this, so the, they had some care and having the price of labor and the price of, um, the sugar production and so many percent of sugar from their beets would be given so much, you see. So much percent of sugar, sixty per cent or something. And then, you see, somebody had to have come in there to be sure they got justice all along the line. So it became a big proposition. And it really is, but they have settled it now and understand each other now better and better (inaudible) and so forth.

JH: Did you actually visit the migrant workers and talk with them?

HF: Well, yes, and I'd have as many as five little ol' tumble- down Ford cars out in front of my house where they'd come into-- because at that time we were trying to push what Senator Costigan was carrying for, you see. And we didn't want them to sell their sugar or anything until they could get the right price in Congress.

They finally got through a good sugar bill that was much better anyway. I didn't and, of course, through the years I haven't gone into it further, but I'm very glad to know that League of Women Voters and numbers of different groups have gotten an interest in the sugar beets fields for the people and some real help for them because they were just suffering. And, of course, that meant great bunches of people out of work all winter long in the cold and on the counties, you see, which made a big problem there. So, it's, a, but I think like the protesters, protest certainly has a place. Eventually it's heard. I have great confidence in protesting. So that, at least, I can go on protesting some things.

But I think the world's getting better, myself. I don't think it's getting worse. I think that there are many movements ahead. And in science and medication of all sorts. So I think that we've a lot to be thankful for, that so many people are having a chance to use their heads and study and help create things that will make it an easier world.

And now if we just can solve the problem of war for the world, which is the most inane thing imagined. People who think, believe in being kind to children and kind to people, to be going to kill each other over something that really doesn't matter at all in the long run. It has to be decided, I think, at the conference table. And yet we're willing to drag that force and suffering and all (inaudible phrase). We're just simply silly people! And always for the profit of dollar. The profit. And

if the eye is on the profit, plus what good we can do, or else we'll have a world that's impossible.

But I think we're getting better there too. I think all these different corporations and so forth have all been appealing, not only for their advertising and so forth-, but they feel that they should, in making money, also share in some ways share it with their people who work for them and for the different communities and so forth. And it isn't just for advertising. At least they're doing a great deal of good here and there. They could do more, but there's a lot of little sparks here and there that shows that the world is getting more--they understand it better. And here in this country we have so much, you know. It seems to me that we should be able to carry the first flag of peace on earth. I hope we will soon--my goodness.

JH: You had mentioned that you taught in Leadville for a year and then you were married.

HF: Married here in Boulder and, um...

JH: Where were you married?

HF: Married at our home. And we had very large porches, you know, the old-fashioned porch.

JH: Now where was this house?

HF: 1005 12th Street. And we had about two hundred and fifty people invited. And we had a beautiful time. Dr. Roy Peebles of the University Medical School was our best man. And we had our three girls and groomsmen and a very pretty wedding. And Dr. Fischer had returned from Ann Arbor where he'd studied ears, nose, and throat work and was in practice during the year that I was teaching. And so we were married the next summer.

That very Fall I joined the Boulder Woman's Club of which my own mother was a charter member back in 1900. And I've been paying my dues ever since. So I'm one of the few people that could say that they paid their dues for over sixty years. And I never missed because I think the great, in those early days, the work of the women to establish an interest in their community and to fight for a better world and oppose many things as they did and to get many playgrounds and different things that they established in those day, is most admirable and a big contribution in our history for betterment. So, I, we were very busy and I was busy. I was, first year I was the art chairman and I developed more and more my interest in oriental rugs and so I used to give a talk on it. And in my later years I blush to think how little I knew at that time. But my interest is still, is very good and I love rugs--the different rugs show the handiwork of the people.

In fact, I have in later years, since Dr 's gone and died in 1945, why I have been traveling a great deal and have enjoyed the different things of Europe and, um, a world tour and always I have the feeling that what I want to buy when I'm there is not some marvelous thing, but rather a bit of the handcraft of the people. And so I might, I have a sort of cluttered living room which means a lot to me and represents all the little people here and there and the art and the wonderful things they're doing in their worlds. And also, I enjoy looking at them. And, um, sometimes I tell people about them and they seem to get a little stimulation in the right direction, I think. When you think of these things as part of what the human person has done as well as the beauty of the art. So I have a little sort of business of my own that goes on as my friends visit me.

JH: You had mentioned that you were married at 1005 12th Street. You said that was "our home." Do you mean Dr. Fischer?

HF: No. That's my home.

JH: Your parents'?

HF: My parents' home, yes. Both my sisters were bridesmaids and then I had the other girls as bridesmaids. Marie was matron of honor and then I had the other three bridesmaids--two of the girls in University with me. And then we had the different groomsmen marching in with him. Dr. Peebles was our best man.

It was a life-long friendship for the whole family that he married Mrs. Elizabeth Peebles Barrett. And so the whole family-- their mothers and grandmothers and all of them--have always been nearest our heart, our dearest friends in Boulder. Almost every Sunday night we'd have tea there with them or, and almost every Sunday night there'd be a great fire if it wasn't too hot, so. And we'd read out loud and so that meant much because my family was gone, you see. Well, I can go out and see them. They moved to Seattle and out there for twenty years where they are even now, you see.

JH: What kinds of social things did families do in those days?

HF: Why, of course, we were always knitting. When, during the war, World War, the first one, why I was knitting and everybody was knitting. I didn't do it very well, because I wasn't too interested in counting and doing that, you know, and I found that my stockings, socks didn't match. You know that they tell of these tell-tales about use one for a pot-holder and the other one for a hammock. So that was the trouble--they wouldn't always match, you see.

So there was a lot of other, a lot of kidding of the women the way they were trying to knit and so forth. But then, I always had some mending and I carried any mending that I had and we'd sit there family sewing some. But now it just isn't done, you know. If you're in the "in" you don't take your knitting. You don't

take your, you don't take any mending and so the mending piles up for most families. And we don't, but in the olden days everybody thought they should grab something and sew while they sit around all the women. And when you visit someone you could sit.

And I do remember, even in those days, one of my dear friends who had been very active in physical betterment and, um, ideas of well, she belonged to the D.A.R. until, as I did, we went at large because we felt that the D.A.R. was proposing giving some large sum of money for armament. And we thought that was absolutely wrong! And therefore we went at large and you can't get out of D.A.R., and we didn't want to, we just wanted to protest. And I'm sure that today that there'd be an awful howl if they ever tried to do a thing like that again.

So that, but this friend, we had the joke on her. One time I asked her if she had a needle, 'cause we'd go up and spend the evening with them sometimes. "Have you a needle?" She said, "Let's see, I did see one somewhere." (laughs) But most of the women did a great deal of sewing, I think. They ought to sew much for their families and they also, when you went around, used to have Kennsington Clubs.

I remember my mother belonged to one when I was a little girl. And Mrs. Cutler Culbertson, her husband headed the railroad representing the interest from Pittsburgh who really put the money up for the little railroad. And various ones with these little Kennsington Clubs (inaudible) this and that. And these, um, these ladies always went to their Kennsington Club. And they carried either embroidery or their mending, family mending. And so that I remember that was one of the things we did. And I always felt so virtuous because you could get something done. Didn't think you were just starving yourself for time. So (inaudible) times were very (inaudible) much interest and, of course, always things came along.

JH: Were there things in Boulder that families went to--concerts or things that you thought were..?.

HF: We always, they had "red pass" something-or-other down at the Presbyterian Church. And they'd have entertainments and oh, they were interesting. We'd have, sometimes sleight-of-hand artists. Sometimes you'd have someone reading or putting on a little play and we had various things and of course the University always had different programs. And I remember going to something at the Methodist Church which was sponsored by the University and that was (inaudible) a great poem from "the sleep that lies on baby's eyes/and cries and lies and lies." And he gave all those little poems. And Dean Helms introduced him. And I know, I know very well who it was and I can't say it now this minute. I've thought of it for years. But a lot of those things--he was from India, you see.

JH: Were the churches, then-.

HF: In the churches, they would often have them open. And I can remember going to similar kinds of things at the Presbyterian Church and buy tickets for the church. I remember I won the prize for selling the most tickets to have the children have a picnic up at Mount Alto, clear up there which we cover now in about twenty-five minutes. And, of course, it always took you three hours to get up to Nederland, when you were going up from Boulder. You have to go with horses, you see.

And I can remember the Tally-Ho rides that we used to have as class things or some kind of weddings--having it clear up to Boulder Falls--Tally-Ho. And then, of course, we'd take at least two hours and a half.

JH: What about Chautauqua? Was there quite an interest there?

HF: Great interest in Chautauqua too. And I can remember that I went there as a little child. In fact, I remember that terrible accident that we had with the streetcar... And we were there and Fran had hurt her foot. And we tried to get on the car, you know, 'cause it gets so full. And it was waiting there and the car was almost full and we tried to get on and Fran didn't and we were mad at her. "Fran, why didn't you?" She said, "I couldn't, I was afraid I'd hurt my foot!" And so we got off and didn't go and that's the car that went off down here. And Mrs. Richards was killed. Lesley Richards is still in town. I've seen him recently, down at the Post Office. And it was his mother that was killed. They lived across the street from us, I remember.

But it was so fortunate because we'd been right there in the front part where she was. But Fran couldn't get on and we had to get off and wait for the next streetcar. So you sometimes feel there's been a guiding hand that's served you well. So, but, a, we, the Chautauqua was wonderful.

And we used to, Geneva Bell and I used to go swimming down in Boulder Creek. Of course, it wouldn't be done now because it is not sanitary. But we'd go down there and we'd have our wonderful bathing suits which were just some bloomers and funny kinds of things. And that, we'd hang them down in the barn of the Weiss, Mr. And Mrs. at the Weiss family. They were a family of older girls and they let us hang them down there. And then we'd go down in swimming.

JH: Where did you go on Boulder Creek? Whereabouts?

HF: Well it was down. Later on Mrs. Ollinger bought the property. Ollinger property and she was there for many years until just recently. And it's a very nice property now the house and all and Clair Small and Edna Willis lived there in the upper apartment. So that mostly many people know about it. But at, back there

they had a barn, the old-fashioned barns and so we hung our clothes there and then we'd walk down about a hundred feet...

JH: And the cabs were like what?

HF: Well, the cabs were sort of like riding with the Queen of England or somebody. Your over-stuffed sofa. And most of them had just this one seat in them. But some, there were a few that had two seats facing each other in back. And you have the driver there and always Mr. Tresize wore a silk hat. And he had, made his drivers and one of his drivers is still alive. And, and, um, he is a, you talk these days over with him. Zell Thompson, you see. And he's not so well, but he's alive and you, I can talk to him about those good ol' days when we used to, he used to drive the cabs, drive the Tally-Hos and so forth.

Well, and, but, the roads were so bad in those days. Of course, they hadn't cut University hill down as much as they have at this time, which makes it much easier to go up and down. And, but there was Pearl Street in bad weather was just like brown gravy shaking back and forth. And it was dangerous to walk across it because any team coming along would splash you all up. And I had that terrible experience as a little girl when I was on my way to the dentist, as I remember. And the team came along and splashed me all over with mud. (Tape is difficult to listen to at this point because of high-pitched feedback noise.) But the streets were just cakey, they were all in bad weather. (Inaudible phrase) trying to get some kind of cobblestones put down for a few blocks and that helped a great deal.

Well, I was thinking about the streets, but it is a wonderful thing to have your streets paved. And we're gradually doing it. I'd just like to say a good word for the conduction of a good city that City Manager Ted Haskell has. My hat's off to him. I sat with him in a number of meetings summer before last and saw what a marvelous control and what a keen mind he has. And he was so pleasant and everything even though they were having the fight over trying to raise the franchise from two per cent to three per cent that the Public Service should pay. And all that those summer meetings we, none of us spoke, of course, but all that committee of the City Council and Mr. Ted Haskell showed that of the effort in favor of the people. And in trying to get prices down and money income up so that we could have a better Boulder. So I think that we must thank our city as we pass on that, in saying that Boulder is a wonderful place to the work that's been done there, because it has been hard line sometimes to get it accomplished. And to have many citizens here and I'm so hopeful and thankful we have so many interested in question of growth in the city and so forth. So that I will feel that it isn't up to me to try to fight battles anymore. But to just pat them on the back because we've got them. And I think those intelligent people are trying to carry on now and those who are trying to preserve some of the old landmarks are to be thanked because it means a lot to me when they, what they're trying to do is accomplished. So we're turning everything over into very good hands, I think.

JH: Were there any old landmarks that were really significant in Boulder that are gone now that you feel (inaudible due to interruption by the narrator)...?.

HF: Well, I hated to have Central City (School) go. (High school that was built on the site of the first school in Colorado) I think I would have had a lot to say about that if I'd realized it was gonna have it down so soon. It was not supposed, according to the man there at the time when I saw the ruins, said it wasn't supposed to be done for another two weeks. But anyway it was (inaudible phrase) and, of course, that is a landmark for the place where they founded the first school in Colorado. And that Central School seems to me some way could've been preserved for some kind of living.

A few families could've had a place that needed it. I hate the thought of the tearing down 'cause it, a, they tear it down so they can have modern places around. But they could use them still, so they didn't have to be torn down. And I think that should be faced, that side of it. And so it could be used for many things like some kind of housing or meeting place for, for, for people-- babysitting group or something of that nature. Often that is possible. It isn't, they don't tear it down because it's impossible and dangerous lots of times, but rather because they want to clear it out for modern building, which will be, of course, a little more lucrative in every way. But maybe they could've found some other place and that, what was already there live a little bit longer because it had something to contribute.

But, I think that, I believe that much improvement goes on. And I that, um, that a lot of things that by being torn down have been, had better things there. But, a, things that belong to the people, it seems, should be preserved more. Because it isn't a question of money being made by the individual, you see.

JH: You mentioned your father being with the train. Was the old train station that's on Arapahoe or Canyon, I guess, now, is that, a, was that the depot where one boarded to go up to Ward?

HF: Yes, they've always used that particular depot in Boulder. And I don't know why they're making it such a monument because it never was anything but a little square place. But, a, I think it has been improved some. I can remember how difficult it was to get your satchels after you come in from somewhere. And this little baggage room over there by itself. And it was very hard to walk around and get in there to see if your bag had come back or your trunk or something.

JH: How often did that train go? Was it quite a bit of families going along?

HF: Well, they used it some. But, you see, the original idea was to have this train up there into the mountains and bring down the ore. And different things that they wanted to in the way of the mines or any kind of mills and so forth. All

that was needed because they needed some way to get the, all the different equipments needed and the ore out. So that they brought it down and there'd been some kind of a receptive mill there at the mouth of Boulder Canyon.

And Mr. Culbertson and the committee, who were from the East and didn't understand, insisted that it would be much better to carry the railroad out to Weisenhorn (Weisshorn)Lake, which is now the Public Service plant out there. And then to have the plant out there for concentrating and the mill out there. And that didn't meet the farmers who, I mean the miners, who so interested in getting their, their, a, the ore out of the mountains. But also, didn't want to carry it so far because it was done with maybe four horses and the big wagon. That's the way they brought it down out of the mountains, you see.

JH: Then they had to go all the way out to the lake.

HF: But they had to go clear out to the lake, they said, and that extra was too bad, you see, they didn't believe in it. And it never worked. They, it really was a failure out there. My father was out of it because at the, very soon, because it became a different thing from what they expected. And it, a, the, perhaps, the Easterners who then didn't understand about things were quite mistaken. And they put it out. Mr. Pettriken was the manager and (inaudible) man. And Mr. Pettriken and Mrs. Pettriken came from the East--Pittsburgh, I think. And they were, um (inaudible) Mrs. Pettriken was in this little Kennsington Club with Mrs. Culbertson and my mother and other ladies. And this, um, they were lovely, but they didn't know a thing about the mountains or ore or anything of that sort. And so the, that necessary at that route, but that was the point of building the railroad. And that's why, you see, they felt they could make it pay. So in later years, it was just a scenic railroad. And, um, lot of the churches had picnics up there and there would be some transportation of some of the people, but there weren't too many that lived then back in the mountains.

And so instead of using something for a business proposition, bringing down ore, it became just something that maybe could make enough money for our nice Mr. Ford, who was then the manager and he (inaudible) Boulder so many years. But and then and some of the few others to get, make a living. But it was not, um, was not a paying proposition. And yet it was in beautiful territory and they made a certain amount of scenic (inaudible due to feedback).

JH: You've mentioned about the (inaudible) mine close. Did a good many people come, men, to work in the mines who didn't stay in Boulder? Were there big mining camp areas here?

HF: Well, there were lots of little towns up there and the men would go from the town over to the mine. And there were some boarding houses around that would, a, take care of the men. The Pennadium Mine up there and the, all the old mines that people know about, you see. Were all, they had sometimes, they

were very active and they were shut down because they hadn't enough finances, you see.

JH: Did most of these men bring their families with them?

HF: Well, they, many of them had been living in the mountains for years because it's a regular occupation. That was what they were--miners. That's the only thing they wanted to be and the only thing they knew. So they, when the mine owners had enough money to make the mine run, they'd get in there and clean it out again and have all that to go through. But they did, was consecutive mining in Boulder County very long and different. Very few mines have had a good history, I'm afraid. Perhaps management and perhaps the knowledge and so forth of the mines and gold streaks and different things. But they, there have been a certain amount taken out because there have been some quite good streaks in the mines (inaudible).

JH: I have been told that the Chinese were brought in at one time to do some kind of clean-up work in the mines. Do you remember about that or was that any?

HF: Well, a, we didn't, I, that wasn't so pointed here as it was up in Leadville. And there was great animus (animosity) there and in, over by Central City and that section. Great animus towards the Chinese and several of them were killed, I think, in real disputes or something because they, that they shouldn't be imported. Of course, they had the Welsh coming in--the "Jacks" and the "Jennies" all around in the Central City area. There were very many who came there. And, of course, we had different people that came. Lord Ogelby came up into Estes Park, took up the land there and, a, and, I think that it was the early years there are evidences of people coming and a group came from Nederland, from the Nether- lands and started Nederland (the town).

And at this very excellent house--huge living room and rooms all around it and hand-painted furniture, all the things. Very, very attractive and acceptable. A house and office there together. And that's where we stayed and owned it in connection with the mill and the mine for a number of years. And, and as I say, it was Nederland became dead and then Nederland became alive with tungsten. And that's when my mother sold out the land that she had. In Nederland she had (inaudible due to feedback).

So, life goes on and it's wonderful to be in Boulder and I do think it's hard to find a prettier place. It's so beautiful to be up against the mountains. And to have the possibility of looking at them and going back in them and so forth. And the drives are good and we have good roads. And, of, such a neat, cleaned up, attractive Boulder Canyon. (Inaudible) so neat, clean- up and nice, besides being beautiful. I don't see any cluttering around there.

JH: Can you remember when the road was cut up in there? What was it like before the road?

HF: Well, the road had to cut cross the railroad. (Painful to listen in this section due to feedback noise.) And you had to watch when you were going down to Boulder or coming back to Nederland. You had to watch very carefully because you had to cross the railroad tracks, you see. And, uh, then the old railroad tracks were taken over for a lot of the railroad beds were turned into road. So that meant, and also the road going off towards Jimtown (inaudible). So the roads were of the railroad bed and of some of the earlier roads are still in use at times there. And the road back, of course, just a dirt road. (Very difficult to understand narrator here, due to the feedback noise.) Many millions have been spent on our roads, but (inaudible). 'Course they might say that some people never get to ride, but nowadays you have to have a car to (inaudible).

But the main thing, I think, is that the, all, that our schools are excellent, and that our people are thoughtful, and that we have a world in which we can live very peacefully and happily and many interests, have good things brought to us in the way of entertainment. And University brings so much to us.

In fact, I feel that I (inaudible) contributed so much. And I'm so happy that it's my University too. (inaudible) But anyway, I that that, a, we have a lot to be thankful for the people here in Boulder. Because it's a charming place to be and so many nice people here. Seems to me that they're interested in so many things. And I meet groups when I've gone here and there around and (inaudible) this and that and I don't think you find as cross-section of such nice people maybe anywhere else. And perhaps, because of it, we have a little more advantages in education and then, a, the people are very wholesome that have happened to go on to school.

But they're very wholesome (inaudible) so that (inaudible) very hard times with the things going (inaudible) terrible things (inaudible), shall we say "criminal things"? I was on the Parks and Parole Board and so I'm not, I've been on this board and have more understanding than many people about what makes these different accidents--these terrible things that go on. But I too feel that there's got to be a lot of law abiding or else we're going to have more of it. Because other people come in that don't believe in the Establishment and that makes us have a problem to handle them properly and give them a fair deal too. So, I think that we have many problems in Boulder we never had before. It seems to have come in with the rising generation.

I have great confidence and very much affection for young people. 'Cause they're delightful, I think. And they are less, less, um, things conscious. They don't believe in things in the same way that the other generation did. They're not out trying to get things. They're likely to get ideas and pulling together for some new opportunity and they want to change things. But, they're not out for the

graspingness of the past generation accumulating things. So I think there's a lot to be said for them. And they make the other people see that ideas are more important than things. I think that's true.