

LOUISE V. ADAMS. Born 1921.

TRANSCRIPT of OH 1570V

This interview was recorded on March 30, 2009, for the Maria Rogers Oral History Program and the City of Boulder. The interviewer is Diane Rabson. The interview also is available in video format, filmed by Tim Plass. The interview was transcribed by Diane Rabson.

ABSTRACT: Louise Adams moved to the then-new Martin Acres subdivision in 1955. She describes living in Martin Acres in the 1950s and 1960s while raising a family, including the affordability and social make-up of the neighborhood; nearby stores, parks and schools; initial landscaping; and the neighborhood compared to other areas of Boulder. She also addresses changes in Martin Acres over the years.

NOTE: Added material appears in brackets. Speakers are identified by their initials in brackets each time there is a change in speakers.

[A].

00:00 [D.R.] Today is March 30, 2009. My name is Diane Rabson, and I'm interviewing Louise Adams, who lives at 190 S. 33rd St., here in Martin Acres in Boulder, and we're going to talk today about the neighborhood. Louise has lived here for many, many years; she's a "pioneer" in the neighborhood. I'd like to start.

I'd like to mention also the interview is being recorded for the Maria Rogers Oral History Program and the City of Boulder. The Rogers Oral History Program is part of the Boulder Public Library Carnegie Branch for Local History. The interview is being filmed by Tim Plass.

Can you tell us when and where you were born?

[L.A.] I was born in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, in 1921.

[D.R.] What brought you to Boulder?

[L.A.] Allergies. We had horrible allergies back in Michigan. My husband's sister had come out here for the same reason, and she said hers were much better, so we came out here and found them to be much better also.

[D.R.] When you say "we," are you referring to people in your family or—?

[L.A.] My family had allergies, my husband's family. We came out with our three sons.

[D.R.] What year did you come here?

[L.A.] '55.

[D.R.] Specifically why Boulder? There would have been other places in the West you could have gone to.

[L.A.] He was a teacher and that's where he got a job.

[D.R.] Where did he teach?

[L.A.] Boulder High.

[D.R.] What was his subject?

[L.A.] Social studies.

[D.R.] How did you get here?

[L.A.] We drove an old Ford coupe, with five of us in that little coupe.

[D.R.] What about your furniture?

[L.A.] It was all moved out in a van.

[D.R.] Did you move to this house when you came here?

[L.A.] No, we lived up on Fifth Street. The first year we rented a house up there. And then when Martin Acres was developed, we thought—no money down—we can afford this. [Laughter] The payments were only \$83.00 a month and that included taxes and insurance.

[D.R.] That's interesting. Your financing basically was done through whom?

[L.A.] I think it was the Prudential. Prudential had our loan.

[D.R.] Was that set up by the builders?

[L.A.] Yes. Williams Brothers.

[D.R.] Can you tell us a little bit about your family—your children, your husband?

[L.A.] Well, my husband is no longer living. Growing up in Canada we were an athletic family. My daddy loved sports. I had an older brother and two younger sisters. My brother just recently passed away. I have one sister up there still in Ontario. I have four sons. One lives in Boulder, one in Lafayette, and two in Salt Lake.

[D.R.] You said that when you came here you had three sons.

[L.A.] We had three.

[D.R.] How did they feel about moving?

[L.A.] I don't think they cared. [Laughter] We didn't ask them. They liked it here. It was a great neighborhood. Children in every house, no fences. They played all over the place.

[D.R.] No fences in the backyards or just—?

[L.A.] No fences in the backyards, no grass either.

[D.R.] How about trees?

[L.A.] No trees. A few in the park and one down at the old Martin farmhouse on 35th and Moorhead, I believe it is.

[D.R.] Did the developers, the builders, do any landscaping?

[L.A.] No. There was a landscaping company that went up and down the street and everybody just bought from them, most everybody. We bought our maple trees and shrubs and stuff.

[D.R.] Did they put the grass in?

[L.A.] No, we had to do that. [pause] We thought it was heaven. It looked awful when I look back at the pictures.

05:00 [D.R.] Let's talk a little bit about your house. Does your house model have any particular name? Some of the models in Martin Acres—for example, there's the Martinique style.

[L.A.] I know the Martinique. That's the only one I know. We just had a choice of three bedrooms and a garage, or three bedrooms and a carport, things like that. We took three bedrooms and the garage.

[D.R.] Did most of the houses have three bedrooms?

[L.A.] They were all three bedrooms in this area.

[D.R.] How about a basement?

[L.A.] No basements. From here over to 36th Street, there were no basements.

[D.R.] Do you know why that is?

[L.A.] It used to be a swamp. [Laughter] I guess it was a whole lot cheaper. This house only cost \$13,000.

[D.R.] And you paid \$83.00 a month in a mortgage. When did you pay the mortgage off?

[L.A.] In thirty years. We had a party.

[D.R.] Did you burn the mortgage?

[L.A.] Mortgage-burning; we pretended. [Laughter]

[D.R.] So you were saying the Williams Brothers were the builders. Did they design the houses themselves?

[L.A.] I don't know if they designed them. We had no choices. We did have a choice of three different models. This is the one we chose, but we couldn't have the same colors as the people next door. We had to have a different color brick, that was all.

[D.R.] Why was that?

[L.A.] I don't know. We wanted to have the peach brick and they said, no, the one next door is peach.

[D.R.] Many of the houses are part wood, part brick. Your house is completely brick?

[L.A.] No, I have a little bit of the frame out in front.

[D.R.] Can you describe the other two models? Do you remember them?

[L.A.] The one with the one carport—the door goes in from the carport, the front door, in the other homes. The one with the carport—there's one on the corner of 36th over here. The rooms are a little different but they all had three bedrooms and one bath. And no basement.

[D.R.] When we were talking the other day, you said you were the “last house in Boulder.”

[L.A.] There was nothing east of us or south of us. We could look clear up to the mesa. There was nothing on the mesa either.

[D.R.] This is before NCAR developed—

[L.A.] And the church up here—there's a Lutheran church or something.

[D.R.] Is that on 93 [South Broadway]?

[L.A.] No, it's sort of across from King Sooper's up there; on the hill there's a church.

[D.R.] And that wasn't here then?

[L.A.] Nothing, nothing. No shopping centers. We used to take the boys horseback riding where Table Mesa Shopping Center was. There was a farm.

[D.R.] Where was the farm?

[L.A.] Right where the shopping center is up there. There was a whole farm. Nothing was there.

[D.R.] They had horses. Did they have any other livestock?

[L.A.] I don't recall if they did or not. I know the boys were interested in the horses, that's all. That's what the boys liked

[D.R.] Did the farm have a name? Do you remember who owned it?

[L.A.] No, I don't. Of course, Broadway was called Marshall Road and it was two lanes, one each way.

[D.R.] How far did it go south?

[L.A.] I think it went all the way, just like it does now, I think. But it was called Marshall Road because Marshall is out there so it went at least that far.

[D.R.] Did you ever take it all the way to Golden?

[L.A.] I don't know if we did or not. We used to go up to whatever that highway is and turn left to go to Arvada because that's where John's sister lived. So we went out there quite often.

[D.R.] So his sister lived in Colorado. Did she come out before you did?

09:59 [L.A.] One year before, from Michigan.

[D.R.] Was Rocky Flats there—?

[L.A.] I think so, because the fellow next door worked out there. No—Allens didn't move there then. Allens were the second roomers. Might not have been there.

[D.R.] Where did most of the people who lived in this neighborhood work?

[L.A.] Let me see. He was a self-employed painter and she worked for the builders. He was a realtor. He was a mailman. He was in the Navy. All sorts of people. It was the cheapest area in Boulder to live.

[D.R.] When we were talking the other day, you mentioned how people in Boulder felt about—people who lived in the older neighborhoods—felt about Martin Acres? Can you talk about that a little bit?

[L.A.] They called it Swamp Hollow. They just thought we were below them. But we soon changed their mind.

[D.R.] How were you made aware of that?

[L.A.] From people who were born here. We had friends who taught in the school district and they told us about this area.

[D.R.] And they also told you their opinions about it?

[L.A.] [Laughter] But that didn't bother us. We had a nice new home.

[D.R.] Is that the first new house you lived in?

[L.A.] Uh-huh. Because we lived in an old one in Mount Clemens, Michigan. Then our house in Ontario was older, too.

[D.R.] How about the house up on Fifth Street, the one you rented?

[L.A.] It was a little rock cottage that they've added on to now.

[D.R.] Would you have considered living up there?

[L.A.] There wasn't anything we could afford, because we had to have a G.I. loan with no money down.

[Brief interruption to discuss background noise from cat in the room]

[D.R.] How did you find out about the Martin Acres development?

[L.A.] We were looking to buy a home in Boulder and it was the only place we could afford because of the no-money down.

[D.R.] Did they advertise?

[L.A.] I'm sure they did, but, you know, 55 years ago—I can't remember. As I said, when we were looking for a home, there were no others being built in Boulder that we could afford.

[D.R.] So did you look in any other neighborhoods?

[L.A.] We did look in North Boulder, yes.

[D.R.] I know there were some other neighborhoods that were built around the same time. I wondered if they were the same builders—

[L.A.] No. Different builders, and that wasn't a subdivision and they didn't have the same financing.

[D.R.] Tell us more about the park. Did the park exist when you moved here?

[L.A.] Yes, but the stream used to go right down the middle. There are still a couple of big elm trees there where the stream originally went, but then the city wanted it to be a park where the kids could play or they could have football games for them, and they played different games over there. So they moved the stream over by the row of houses and one year there was a flood shortly afterwards. The water came over Broadway and down the middle of the park. It didn't want to follow the new stream.

[D.R.] Do you remember what year that was?

[L.A.] Just a couple of years, maybe a year or two afterwards.

14:59 [D.R.] So that would have been 1957?

[L.A.] Something like that, but I'm not quite sure. We had another flood before they started building up on the hill here. Everything had been stripped and the water came down there and across Broadway again, behind the houses on Dartmouth and down our street.

[D.R.] The water went down your street.

[L.A.] Right down the middle of the street.

[D.R.] But it didn't affect your house.

[L.A.] No. The houses down in the middle did, down on the end. They had to put pumps in the basements.

[D.R.] So some of the houses did have basements or—

[L.A.] They're all crawl spaces. That's where our furnace and water heater is.

[D.R.] How do you access those?

[L.A.] Got a trapdoor in my pantry there, what used to be the garage. There was a trapdoor in the garage.

[D.R.] Where did you put your washer and dryer?

[L.A.] We didn't have dryers, but the washer was right where it is now. And it was all set up for a washer, which was nice. Everybody had a washer there, but no dryers. We put our clothes out on the line to dry.

[D.R.] So did they build clotheslines for you?

[L.A.] Oh, yes, they were all here. Holes are still there.

[D.R.] What about trash? What did you do with trash?)

[L.A.] We burned it. We had concrete pillars, things where we took our garbage out and burned it, right out at the end of the yard. I don't recall them picking up any wet garbage or anything even.

[D.R.] There was no trash service at all?

[L.A.] Not that I'm aware of, but I'm not positive. I think Condas started Western Disposal.

[D.R.] The Conda family?

[L.A.] Yes.

[D.R.] Do you remember when they stopped using the—what did you call them, incinerators?

[L.A.] Yes, incinerators. It was the city that put a ban on them because of the smoke. Everybody burning out there. Burning garbage as well as papers and everything. The kids all liked it. They took the trash out there to burn it. That was their job. They loved that.

[D.R.] Did they do that regularly, or once a week?

[L.A.] Whenever the garbage bin was full they took it out there.

[D.R.] Did any of your boys deliver newspapers?

[L.A.] No. Because they all played sports, even in elementary school. The city had a program in football and basketball and wrestling. The boys all partook in that.

[D.R.] Did they use the park to practice and play?

[L.A.] Yes they did. It was handy for us. When we first came to Boulder we didn't have to drive our kids anywhere, because they rode their bikes or walked. It was really nice but I can't complain about people moving here because we moved here. So I can't complain about anyone else moving here.

[D.R.] Did they have growth restrictions in Boulder when you came?

[L.A.] No, but shortly afterwards they had the imaginary Blue Line, up there where you can't build. You can't get city water above the Blue Line.

[D.R.] I know there was an election in 1960 to allow the building of the NCAR Mesa Lab. How did you feel about that in your neighborhood?

[L.A.] Didn't bother us because—the fellow next door, when he moved here he worked out at Dow. We knew people that worked up at NCAR. David would take Ian up there and tell him that was his castle. “Do you want to go up and see your castle, Ian?” “Sure!”

[D.R.] Is David your oldest?

[L.A.] No, he is #2 and Ian is #4. So they'd go there and look at the castle.

[D.R.] What was up there before they built? Did you ever go up there and walk around?

19:59 [L.A.] No. When we'd go anywhere we would go up on Flagstaff on the weekends; we'd cook breakfast up there. Or we'd go up—what's the road that goes up to Nederland, what's it called now? We'd go up there by the stream and cook breakfast.

[D.R.] So you went through Boulder Canyon.

[L.A.] Yes.

[D.R.] Did you go all the way to Nederland or just part way?

[L.A.] No, we would stop by the stream. They had picnic tables all along there, and the boys would play. They played with rifles and guns, and people won't let their children do that now because, “Oh, no, they're going to be warriors, fighters.” Well, our kids, it didn't affect them. Everybody played with guns, they played cowboys and Indians all the time.

[D.R.] Were these cap guns or air rifles?

[L.A.] Little rifles. They didn't fire anything. Pretend. But they had a good time doing it. They played outdoors all the time with all the neighborhood children.

[D.R.] Were there a lot of children in the neighborhood?

[L.A.] Every house.

[D.R.] Were people around the same age?

[L.A.] Yes. The kids all went to the same school; they had a lot of friends. They played at each other's houses everyday. The mothers would get together for coffee in morning once the children left.

[D.R.] Did you work at the time or were you a housewife?

[L.A.] No, well I did help them with their sandwiches across the street. When they made them, I bagged the potato chips.

[D.R.] What were the sandwiches for?

[L.A.] They sold them to the dorms, in the dorms every night, because there were no vending machines then. A friend of ours took them up there every night and sold them.

[D.R.] Did they take orders from students or they would just go up there?

[L.A.] They just made a bunch and took them up there. Then I did—I won't call it a day care, but I did take care of some friends' children. They lived over on 36th and I took care of their children. I think I got \$25 a week.

[D.R.] Did you still have some of your own children at home?

[L.A.] Yes, but they were in school. He was a teacher so I didn't have them in the summer, so it was ideal.

[D.R.] How did you make friends in Boulder.

[L.A.] Teachers' wives. And I belonged to a group that was called "Tri-T" and they were just in the neighborhood. It was a very friendly neighborhood, because we were all the same age and we were all new here. Everybody was new, so that was what was nice. It's different now but it's coming back to that. More children, more young families. I'm the only old-timer that I know living around here. There may be others—Conrad—but he doesn't live in his original house.

[D.R.] That's Conrad McBride.

So why have you stayed here all these years?

[L.A.] I like it here, I really do. It's handy to the bus, it's close to shopping, it's paid for and the utilities and everything else are not expensive. I did put in interior storms, you can see there. That has helped because those aluminum frames were horrible; they dripped all winter long. We had towels on the window sills, but those helped. Those were

put in before people were installing the new windows, which a lot of the homes have now.

[D.R.] What about heating? Do you have your original furnace?

[L.A.] No, and I just got a new one last spring, a year ago. My original furnace was a Lenox, and it lasted all that time. I had it serviced every year though. I took care of it. I've had several water heaters. They just rolled them aside. They're all under the house, I think.[chuckles]

25:04 [D.R.] So I know you've done some renovations to this house. Can you describe them?

[L.A.] I converted the garage into a room and large closet and a bath, and of course we added the carport on the back. We have a big storage shed in back also. Just part of the yard is fenced, not the whole thing. The boys said, "We want to be able to play ball!" So we left part of the yard for them to play in.

[D.R.] When did you put the fence in?

[L.A.] When Ian was born in '63. He came along quite a few years after.

[D.R.] Were other people fencing their yards as well?

[L.A.] Oh, yes, by that time. Everybody had a fence because they had pets.

[D.R.] Did you have pets?

[L.A.] Yes, we had a dog and cats.

[D.R.] I think in those days dogs ran free.

[L.A.] But when we had Sidney, we didn't let him run free. We took him for walks and the people next door didn't let their dog run free, I think. I don't remember. Some dogs did run free, but most people didn't let them.

[D.R.] Did you see wild animals around here?

[L.A.] A lot of deer. They'd come across Broadway and we had an apple tree in the backyard and they'd come and eat the apples that were on the ground. In the winter they'd come in and we'd see this big circle in the snow and they'd be sleeping there. I had some Japanese girls stay with me one summer, and they couldn't get over the deer. They got so excited to see the deer. "Louise, Louise, look!" We don't see them as often now.

[D.R.] Were there any other types of animals—raccoons—?

[L.A.] We get a lot of those. I haven't seen any in the last few years. Of course, squirrels but not any other wild animals.

[D.R.] So no mountain lions or bears?

[L.A.] Not across the highway here, no. When we'd go up for runs, walks, on the mesa there, we'd see bear scat, but we never saw the animals.

[D.R.] Even in those years.

Did you have any neighbors who worked for the Department of Commerce? Did you know anybody here—?

[L.A.] You mean over here? I'm trying to think who did. I'm sure there were, but I can't think right offhand any that did. I think they made more money and could afford more expensive homes. [Laughter]

[D.R.] Was Broadway kind of a dividing line for—?

[L.A.] Old Boulder and new Boulder?

[D.R.] Or economics; the houses might have been more expensive over there [across Broadway]?

[L.A.] Of course. When you look up Baseline—there were none up Dartmouth then, but the houses on Baseline up there were all built, and of course they're big homes up there.

[D.R.] How about after they put in Table Mesa Drive?

[L.A.] The houses on the other side of Table Mesa Drive—where you live also [South 39th Street]—had basements, so they're bigger homes.

[D.R.] When did they build that part of Martin Acres? I'm on the east side of the park.

[L.A.] They just kept building all the time. They never really stopped. Was your house built by Williams Brothers?

[D.R.] I don't know.

[L.A.] I think it was.

[D.R.] 1960, so there was five years between your house and my house.

Did you look over there and see the construction going on?

[L.A.] We didn't pay much attention. It didn't bother us. We had the park. It was a nice little park, but they didn't have the swing set and everything they have now. It was just a park.

30:02 [D.R.] When did they put that in, do you think?

[L.A.] They put several in, but none were there when my boys went over there to play. We had one in our backyard.

[D.R.] Did you ever walk around the Martin Farm [original house in the area]?

[L.A.] I don't think it was that large, because they built houses right next to it.

[D.R.] There's that house and the outbuilding.

[L.A.] The little white house—

[D.R.] Were you aware of anybody living there?

[L.A.] They still do. People still live there.

[D.R.] Thinking about this neighborhood and your neighbors, would you say they were very diverse in some ways—economically, racially?

[L.A.] Not racially. I think there was only one Black family living in Martin Acres at the time, and they lived on the other side of Table Mesa, I think. I even forget their names, but I know the kids played football when our kids did. That was the only Black family.

[D.R.] Were they the Alexanders?

[L.A.] No. I forget the name—

[D.R.] Were the houses along Moorhead built when you moved here?

[L.A.] They were built before ours, I think.

[D.R.] Was the turnpike already in when you came?

[L.A.] No, but it wasn't long afterwards. You used to have to pay \$.25 to go back and forth. There was so much traffic they paid it off sooner than they expected.

[D.R.] Did you go to Denver in those years? How did you get there?

[L.A.] We didn't go there very often. We didn't need to. There was everything we needed here. The boys were involved in different things here. We had relatives in Michigan and then in Florida and Canada, so if we went anywhere we'd go visit them.

[D.R.] Where did you go grocery shopping?

[L.A.] First up at Basemar. There was a Red Owl, I believe it was called, up there. That's where we shopped.

[D.R.] Was it a supermarket—?

[L.A.] Yes. Where Ace Hardware was, in there. It was a nice little store. Everybody shopped there.

[D.R.] How did you do the shopping? Did you have the car during the day?

[L.A.] Yes, sometimes. Didn't have it all the time, but most of the time. John rode a bike quite often. The bus service wasn't as good in those days as it is now.

[D.R.] Did any buses come out here?

[L.A.] Yes, along Broadway, but not as frequently.

[D.R.] Did they also go to Denver or Golden?

[L.A.] I'm sure they went to Denver. They went to Denver, but I don't think we took it very often.

[D.R.] We talked the other day about the school district. Can you describe—?

[L.A.] When we moved here, we were in the old Fairview District. The boys went across the street to school, right across Dartmouth here. There's a nursery school and preschool there now. The big house in the middle wasn't there. The other two houses were one on either side of the big house. First, second, third and fourth grades were there.

[D.R.] How many kids were enrolled at that school?

[L.A.] The classes were small. It was nice. The playground was in the middle and they all played together.

[D.R.] So they hadn't yet built the—?

[L.A.] No lunch program, no music room, no library, no nothing. Just four classrooms.

[D.R.] No gym?

[L.A.] No gym. They played outside. They got along just fine, and they learned, and they enjoyed it.

[D.R.] How big was the Fairview District?

[L.A.] It encompassed—it went clear out east because it encompassed Platt, where the boys went to high school. It was a big district, it was a country school, they called it. The kids at Boulder High used to tease the daylights out of the kids at Fairview. They used to throw dead chickens on the field during the football games and stuff like this. They were very nasty. [Laughter] But Fairview showed them when they got bigger.

35: 36 [D.R.] So those were the only two high schools in Boulder.

[L.A.] And there weren't any east of town, of course, because Lafayette and Louisville were just little mining towns. Not much there at all.

[D.R.] Did they have middle schools or junior high?

[L.A.] Junior high. Actually the boys went were Douglass is now, Douglass Elementary. It was called Douglas Junior High. That's where they went to junior high and they were bused out there.

[D.R.] So that's down South Boulder Road. Is it actually in Louisville?

[L.A.] No. It's just in the country there. I don't know if it's in Boulder or not. I never paid much attention. Then they built Baseline and the boys moved out there to Baseline.

[D.R.] Sounds like your boys are pretty close in age.

[L.A.] The first two are a year-and-a-half apart. Then the next two are two-and-a-half years apart, and then after that it was 13 years. But we enjoyed him the most. He was their toy. When they went to work at the Gondolier when they were older, they would take him and sit him on the counter while they made pasta. And he'd come home just covered in flour. [Laughter] But all their friends knew Ian. He was their toy.

[D.R.] Now where did Ian go to school?

[L.A.] Down here at Martin Park, Baseline and Fairview. I still call it Martin Park.

[D.R.] What's it called now?

[L.A.] Creekside. It's Martin Park to me. I volunteered over there several years.

[D.R.] When did you actually start working? You mentioned you were a school secretary.

[L.A.] When my husband left me. Ian was just about six years old then, I think. Steven could come home from college. He would come home in the afternoon to look after him after school. Ian got himself off to school every morning. I'd set the timer on the stove.

His coat would be all ready, everything ready. He'd turn the timer off and go to school, no problem. My neighbor was home too after school. She was a cook in the school district. So I knew someone was here if he needed help after that. But he could have one friend here, or he could go over to their house, and they never got into any trouble. Kids just didn't then. I guess you'd call them latchkey kids now.

[D.R.] Were there other women in the neighborhood who were working when you went to work?

[L.A.] Yes, the ones that he played with. Their mothers weren't home. He'd call me everyday when he got home and tell him his plans—whether he was going to Jim's or John's house or whether they were coming over here.

[D.R.] What year would that have been?

[L.A.] He was in elementary school still. If he was born in '63—'73, in there.

[D.R.] When did the neighborhood start changing?

[L.A.] When the children grew up and left home and when the parents had more money, got better jobs, they bought homes in better parts of the city, better homes, bigger homes.

40:00 [D.R.] What happened to the homes here?

[L.A.] They sold very fast because they were cheap. And now young families are moving back because it's close to schools and the children are playing ball in the street just like our kids used to. They've got bases set up and everything. When you walk down the street you can see where they've got their bases.

[D.R.] When did that start happening, because I know this was a neighborhood of renters for a long time.

[L.A.] There still are a lot of renters. They're renters, the people behind me are renters. They were cheap homes to buy, as second homes. I don't know exactly when that started. There are a lot of renters. A lot of students live out here, too.

[D.R.] Would you say most of the renters are students?

[L.A.] No, not on this street. I think most of them own their own homes here, too. On our street, I know. Back behind me, too. And across the street except for them. A lot of homes they've added on in the back or converted the garages to get more room.

[D.R.] As you did. Was that conversion a response to the change in your marriage?

[L.A.] No. More children. [Laughter]

[D.R.] Did the city have anything to say about that?

[L.A.] We got permits and displayed them just like they do now. We hired our own contractors. I had a different contractor for that room than I did for the—I think he did the storage shed at the same time as the garage. Then I had the carport added.

[D.R.] Have you done any other renovations to the house?

[L.A.] Not a thing. I'd like to remodel the kitchen, but at my age—[chuckles]

[D.R.] Speaking of the kitchen: when you moved in, did you have built-in appliances?

[L.A.] We bought all the appliances. There was a hookup for the washer and there was a place for the stove, but that's all we had. No dryers.

[D.R.] Do you have wood floors?

[L.A.] Yes, underneath all this, hardwood floors. But it's quieter and warmer with the carpeting and less upkeep really.

[D.R.] Did you put the carpeting in yourself?

[L.A.] Yes, bought good carpeting and good padding and it's lasted—I bought it in Boulder from the Boulder firm that was at Basemar for years. And now they're out east. I can say the name if you want: Hudgel's. They were very good, did all these blinds, too. I had drapes but the cat climbed the drapes. [Laughter] So I had to get the blinds in.

[D.R.] Tell us a little bit about Basemar.

[L.A.] Where Wild Oats [Whole Foods—ed.] is now, used to be a Sears Catalog place, and you could go in and order things out of the catalog. And where the restaurant is—what's it called?

[D.R.] The Indian restaurant?

[L.A.] No, on the south side of the shopping center.

[D.R.] Is it The Egg and I?

[L.A.] Yes. It was a pharmacy. So there was the pharmacy there and of course Herb's [Herb's Meats & Specialty Foods] has been there quite awhile. McGuckins Hardware was there for awhile. Or a hardware. I don't know if it was McGuckin or not, but it was a hardware. So that's what there was. The big Red Owl, and there was a hardware and the pharmacy, and I don't know what else was along the east side.

[D.R.] At some point there was a movie theater there.

45:01 [L.A.] After Red Owl closed, there were two theaters where Red Owl was. They showed second-run movies, if you know what I mean. They were cheaper.

[D.R.] So did you do most of your shopping there rather than say downtown?

[L.A.] The only store downtown—there was a Joyce's Supermarket, downtown where—part of it is the bank parking lot right there between Walnut and Pearl, there was a supermarket. You wouldn't call it a supermarket; it was a family store.

[D.R.] What about for clothing?

[L.A.] There was a Reinert's store on the corner of Broadway and Pearl, the northwest was Reinert's. We bought the boys' clothes there. I've always had to buy kids' clothes, but I got a lot of my clothes there, too, though. That's where we shopped for clothes most of the time.

[D.R.] Did they have the whole range of clothing—children, adults—?

[L.A.] We shopped out of the catalog a lot, too, though. The Sears Catalog, because they were cheaper.

[D.R.] What about restaurants?

[L.A.] The Lamp Post in Arapahoe Village was THE restaurant. There wasn't anything else—except Walgreen's was on the corner, across from the courthouse. There was a Walgreen's drugstore, and we would go eat there sometimes with the boys. They'd order peanut butter sandwiches. Those were the only two places that we ever ate.

[D.R.] There were movie theaters downtown?

[L.A.] There was the Boulder Theater downtown and the two on the Hill—Fox and—I don't remember the name of the other one.

[D.R.] What about television? Did you get reception here?

[L.A.] Eventually. Black and white, but we didn't have it when we first moved in. Other people did. We had reception because the people behind us had a TV. The boys would go over there to watch so all the time, so finally I said, "We might just as well get one here." Little black and white Zenith.

[D.R.] I think I only have a couple of more questions. Then I was going to turn it over to Tim to see if he had any. Can you talk a little bit about Vetsville? Did you know anybody who lived there?

[L.A.] Yes. My first job with the school district was at Aurora 7, and that's where those children went to school, at Vetsville. And there were a lot—English as a second language was not Spanish. There were children from all over the world there, and they spoke a lot of different languages at Aurora 7.

[D.R.] Why was that?

[L.A.] The parents went to school here, and the children went to school at Aurora 7. They learned to speak English soon, though. And of course the parents did, too, because they were students. There was no English as a Second—. The tutors worked with these children, because they didn't understand English. But they learned very fast, and then they spoke English at home, which they don't do now. That's what I find different when I volunteered at Martin Park or Creekside.

[D.R.] The children would speak another language?

[L.A.] They spoke Spanish all the time to each other in the after-school program, but in class they had to speak English. The teacher kept saying, "Speak English! Speak English!"

[D.R.] When did you start volunteering there?

[L.A.] After I retired. I worked until I was 70, and then I retired. I volunteered at Majestic Heights for awhile and then over here.

49:52 [D.R.] Were you doing the same kind of work—?

[L.A.] No, I worked in the library sometimes. Sometimes I read with the children and worked in the classroom, whatever they needed. I enjoyed it.

[D.R.] I have one other question that is sort of a different topic, and that's about fallout shelters.

[L.A.] There was only one here that I knew, down on Moorhead Avenue in the backyard. It's probably covered over now. That was the only one I knew.

[D.R.] Was there any discussion in the neighborhood about them, or in your family?

[L.A.] Just that they had—I don't know that the boys had—what were those drills called?

[D.R.] The air raid drills?

[L.A.] They had them at the high school, I know. The students all had to go out in the halls and sit, but I don't know if they had them over here or not. The boys never mentioned it.

[D.R.] Tim, do you have any questions?

[T.P.] I have a few questions I would like to ask you if you don't mind. I'm just trying to get the timeline straight in my mind about when you first came to Boulder.

[L.A.] In '55, bought this house in '56. The Bureau [of Standards—later renamed NIST] was dedicated in '55, and Eisenhower was here. That's why I remember we bought this house in '56. Then I was divorced when I was 50 and my husband left me. I went to work for the school district for twenty years till I got my benefits. I never made much money as a secretary because it was a ten-month job. But the benefits are good, so enough for me anyway.

[T.P.] What was your impression of Boulder when you first got here? You came from out of town, obviously. What was it like?

[L.A.] Coming down the hill there—oh, we thought there was never a place this beautiful. We loved it. Right from the start. When you come down—what's the hill called?

[D.R.] Davidson Mesa.

[L.A.] Davidson Mesa. Coming down Davidson Mesa. And whenever we left it to go to Denver or Arvada or anything, we'd all look out the back window: there's Boulder!

[T.P.] How did it compare socially to where you had come from?

[L.A.] It was a very friendly place because we lived out here, and everybody was new so they were all very friendly. We got together a lot.

[T.P.] So most of the folks who lived here, were they from out of town?

[L.A.] Yes. I don't know where they all came from now. I know Allens, when they lived there, came from the West Coast. I think the people behind us had lived in Colorado.

[T.P.] So were there many native Boulderites who moved down to Martin Acres?

[L.A.] No, not very many.

[T.P.] Why do you think that was?

[L.A.] They sort of looked down on Martin Acres. But now this same house on 34th Street, they were natives, and they bought a house over there. They've since moved, though. But they bought a house there. They were the only ones that I can recall now, because it was a long time ago, that there were true natives that lived here. Everybody else was new.

[T.P.] You talked a little bit with Diane about the importance of financing and how this house qualified for financing—

[L.A.] G.I. Bill.

[T.P.] Can you talk a little bit more about that? I'm not really quite sure how that works.

[L.A.] Anyone that was in the service could get a loan called the G.I. Bill. We were in the Canadian service, John and I, because we were Canadians at one time. But he came over here when he was just a kid and I met him in the Royal Canadian Air Force and came over here with him. I used my benefits—the benefits were transferable from Canada to the United States. So he used his G.I. bill over here instead of in Canada. And I used my Canadian benefits to buy furniture. We only had to pay 10 percent of what the furniture, this same maple furniture that I'm using now we bought in Canada.

55:16 [T.P.] So was there something about the houses here in Martin Acres that made them qualify?

[L.A.] They were all G.I. Bill. Everybody here was on the G.I. Bill.

[T.P.] So there were a lot of ex-servicepeople here?

[L.A.] And some people still in the service; they were going to school at CU. They were in the Navy, because he was in the Navy and people down the street were in the Navy, but they were up at CU.

[T.P.] You talked a little bit about your windows—how aluminum windows had a lot of condensation and so forth. Overall, how was the house built? Has it been a good house—?

[L.A.] Excellent, excellent. I think these are very well-built. The Williams Brothers did a beautiful job. One was a staunch Democrat and the other one was a staunch Republican, but they were good builders.

[T.P.] Did you know them personally?

[L.A.] The Democrat we did, George.

[T.P.] Can you tell me a little bit about George?

[L.A.] I know that they lived out where the Country Club is out there, because they obviously had a lot of money. They couldn't have started building these homes if they didn't. But these homes were cheap: \$13,000. That included taxes and insurance, the \$83 a month did.

[T.P.] So was there ever any kind of homeowners' association in Martin Acres, or covenants on the properties?

[L.A.] I don't know that there was then, I don't remember anything. There is a homeowners' association now.

[T.P.] So when you wanted to make changes to your property, you didn't have to go to the homeowners' association and say, "I'd really like to change the color of my house"?

[L.A.] And I don't think they have to now, either. It's not like up in Mapleton Hill where they can't paint unless they—no, it's very relaxed out here.

[T.P.] One of the reasons I asked that was because you were talking about when you were picking out your house, you had to have a certain brick color. You wanted one, and you were told, no, you couldn't have that.

[L.A.] They had three different colors. They had peach and beige and red. We thought we would like the peach, and they said no, there's one next door, you can't have that. They already had the beige so we had to have red. Then they have red, so—.

[T.P.] I just had a couple more questions. Did everyone have a car who lived down here, back in the early days, in the fifties?

[L.A.] Yes, one car.

[T.P.] Did they have two cars, [or] just one car?

[L.A.] So the wives were pretty much stuck at home, because the bus service wasn't much. Of course we all had children. They didn't send the children to day care or nursery school. They think that they have to, to get an early start. Well, our third son never had kindergarten till he was six years old. And when the state made Boulder and Fairview districts consolidate, that's when Martin Park opened, and they had a kindergarten. Steven was six in October, and he started kindergarten in January, so he had half a year. And who breezed through school, and who was recommended for a Rhodes Scholarship? The child that started late. And the one who started early in Michigan had the hardest time for the first few years. After that he caught up. There were no nursery schools or pre-schools; everybody stayed home with their children.

[T.P.] That's all I have.

[D.R.] That's all I have as well. I'd like to thank you very much for doing this interview and being part of this program.

[L.A.] It was fun.

[D.R.] Good.

[T.P.] Did you have anything else you wanted to tell us before we—?

[L.A.] It's just that I've traveled all over the world, you know, running. I think Boulder's the best place. Even my four sons all lived in Salt Lake at one time, and I stayed here. I liked it here. I think it's a great place to live. I know it's expensive, but I don't have much money and I get along just fine.

[D.R.] It's grown a lot since you moved here.

[L.A.] Oh, yes. But it's not growing as much now. People are moving to Lafayette and Louisville.

[D.R.] Thank you again.

[L.A.] It was nice meeting you both.

[D.R.] This is the end of our interview with Louise Adams.

60:37 [End of interview]