MARVIN B. WOOLF. Born 1931.

TRANSCRIPT of OH 1646V

This interview was recorded on January 26, 2010, for the Maria Rogers Oral History Program. The interviewer is Gerald Caplan. The interview also is available in video format, filmed by Liz McCutcheon. The interview was transcribed by Susan Becker.

ABSTRACT: Marvin B. Woolf, a Greeley native and Boulder resident since 1954, has been a Boulder attorney since 1957. He worked for the firm of Newcomer and Douglas, as a water lawyer for the city of Boulder, and in the District Attorney’s office. In this interview, he tells many stories that bring to life both the small town that was Boulder during the mid-twentieth century and the close-knit legal community of that time.

NOTE: The interviewer’s questions and comments appear in parentheses. Added material appears in brackets.

[A].

00:00
(This interview is part of the Maria Rogers Oral History Project of the Carnegie Branch Library of Boulder, Colorado. The person to be interviewed today is Marvin B. Woolf. This the 27th of January, 2010. The interview is being conducted at the Woolf home at 2190 Linden Avenue in Boulder.)

(Marv, would you state your full name, and spell your last name?)

Yes, I will, Gerry. I’m Marvin B. Woolf, W-o-o-l-f.

(Where and when were you born?)

I was born in Greeley, Colorado, on April 4, 1931.

(And where did you go to school?)

I went to the Greeley public schools, and I graduated from Greeley High in 1948. Then I went to the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated there in 1952. Then I went to the CU Law School and graduated in February of 1957.

(And after graduating from the CU Law School, what did you do?)

I, at the time, was employed by Newcomer and Douglas—while I was still a student. I stayed in Boulder, and I’ve lived in Boulder ever since.

(Let me take a step back, Marv, if you will. Tell us about your family.)
Okay. Two boys—Tom and Ben—and two wives—Elise and Hannah. Elise, wife #1, lives in Boulder. Hannah lives with me at 2190 Linden Ave. Hannah [Elise?] and I were divorced several years ago. Tom is an employee at Johns Hopkins University, as a research physicist. And Ben is selling real estate now, in Asheville, North Carolina.

(We were talking about the law practice with Newcomer and Douglas. You clerked there for a while, and then you joined the firm, after graduation?)

That’s right. The firm was made up of Ralph Newcomer, who came to Boulder many years ago because he was dying of tuberculosis, went to the sanitarium, and he survived for another fifty years or so. A leading lawyer in the town, along with Dudley Hutchinson, Sr.—they were the two ranking lawyers at the time I came to town.

Ralph Newcomer joined forces with Harl Douglas, shortly after WWII. That became the firm of Newcomer and Douglas. They hired Bill Paddock, of the Paddock family of the *Daily Camera*, and Frank Buchanan. The four of them were partners. I was employed as an associate. Later Howie Klein joined as an associate, and David Skaggs, who went on to be a congressman, was an associate for a while. It was a general practice of law, as was most of the practice done in Boulder at the time. We had very few specialists.

(Tell us about the other attorneys in town that you remember at that time, in 1954, I guess it was.)

1957, I guess. I started law school in 1954. One of the—a guy came in to me, and he had a drunken driving ticket. I’d probably been in practice for two or three weeks, and I went into see Frank Buchanan about it, and Frank says, “Marvin, you have no business representing this guy. There is a guy across the street in the National State Bank building. He specializes in this kind of thing.” I can’t remember his name. “We’re not exactly sure how he does it. We don’t know if he gets to the judge, or whether he gets to the jury, just what his techniques are, but he’s been very successful. And if you represent this guy, you’re making a big mistake. So I sent him over to this other lawyer. And by-golly, he got this guy off. I don’t know how he did it, _____.

One of the other lawyers in town was Frank Dolan—and Joe Dolan—they were in the same building as I was. I mentioned Dudley Hutchinson. I’ll think of some more.

(Okay.)

You came in to town just a bit later, Gerry.

(That’s true. Tell us about the city attorney at that time.)

The city attorney was Guy Hollenbeck. He began working in the city attorney’s office with John Mack. At that time, the city attorney was a part-time job. Boulder wasn’t large enough to have a full-time city attorney or city attorney staff. John Mack hired Guy Hollenbeck, and Guy then became city attorney. Guy decided that he wanted to have two
young lawyers join him—one to handle water matters, and one to handle administrative matters. He hired Sam Coleman for administration, and he hired me to the water lawyer.

All three of us took turns in municipal court, so they had one-third, one-third, and one-third of a municipal court practice. That provided a lot of cocktail-party-type stories. Like the lady who pulled out in front of a policeman down at 13th and Arapahoe and the policeman testified he had to put on his brakes to keep from hitting her. And she pled not guilty. Her defense was very simple: I didn’t see him, so he couldn’t have been there.

[laughter]

04:59
Well, Rex Scott [the judge] didn’t buy that one. So she says, “I’m not going to pay a fine.”

Rex says, “I’m going to fine you $15.”

She says, “I’m not going to pay it.”

“Then you’ve got to go to jail for three dollars a day until your fine is worked up.”

“All right, send me to jail.”

So, she got put in the city jail—at that time it was downtown, on the upper floors. She went to jail, and she was in jail for two hours. Her husband came down and said, “You’re going to do what?!?”

“I’m not going to pay that fine. I’m not guilty.”

And her husband said, “No, you’re not. You’ve got children at home, you’ve got meals to fix, you’ve got laundry to do, and you’re not going to have a five-day vacation at the taxpayers’ expense. You’re coming home, lady.”

So he paid the $15, and she went home.

[laughter]

(What was the district attorney’s staff organization in that early time.)

Well, before I got to the DAs—I went in with Stan Johnson, when he got elected. Before that, it was a part-time job. You may recall, Gerry, we were part of the Eighth Judicial District—that included Jackson County, Larimer County, Weld County, and Boulder County—and people like Bud Holmes and Joe Dolan were part-time DAs; they had their own private practice. Then we became the Twentieth Judicial District. The DA became a full-time district attorney. So Stan Johnson was elected, and I became his assistant city
attorney. We had a very small staff: we had Bill Gray and Dick Dana, two that I remember.

It was a full-time job, but it was not considered to be a life-time employment for the young lawyers. They were expected to come in, trying to serve their apprenticeship, if you will, then leave after a while and do something else. Now it’s changed, as I understand it. Many assistant DAs and deputy DAs make that kind of their lifetime work. It was not that way though.

(Tell us about your activities in the Republican Party back then—’57 and later.)

I was, and am, a registered Republican. When I first got to Boulder, Republicans were in the majority, and we held the courthouse, we held the legislative seats—like John Macky in Longmont and Woody Hewett in the State Senate. I became active, because I thought and still think that part of a lawyer’s duty is to be active in politics. So I chose the Republican Party, because that was the party in power. We controlled the county courthouse and the state legislative seats. I was a precinct committeeman, I held precinct committee meetings up at our house up on Mapleton Avenue. I went to county conventions, I went to congressional conventions, and state conventions over the years.

I have not been active in recent years. The Republican Party changed considerably, in my opinion, and I feel like the Republican Party left me more than my leaving the Republican Party. I’m still a registered Republican. But there was a time when we’d go to the state convention and a resolution would be introduced that abortion be put on our platform, and those of us that didn’t think it should be there would argue that it’s not a partisan matter—abortion is not partisan. And we would defeat it. And it would come up two years later. And it would come up two years later. And eventually it got to the point where it became part of the Republican platform. And then it became a part of—kind of an exodus of those Democrats who wanted to fight abortion—they joined the Republican Party. Pretty soon, the conservative right pretty much controlled the Republican Party.

We got quite a shock when Stan Johnson was running for his second term and was not even opposed—no Democrat opposed him—but he was facing a primary with a Republican challenger—his name was Drew in there someplace, I can’t remember whether Drew is his first or his last name—we were so shocked by that, that Charlie Dinwiddie and I volunteered to become captains and try to reverse this trend of the Republican Party. So we worked to get out the vote and went to the various conventions we were supposed to. And within two years, both Charlie and I were dismissed without even a letter of thank you very much and goodbye! Just one day we woke up and they said, Did you read the paper today, you’re no longer a captain. You’ve been deposed.” Or whatever.

(This would have been about when?)

I’m not sure.
I did. That’s true. I ran for election for state representative in probably 1964—it was the Goldwater year.

[A “meow” is heard]

That’s the neighbor’s cat. That’s Zipper.

Couple of things about that campaign that I remember. I had a very nice committee to help me, made up of people like Daryl Brubaker [?] and George Ganderzick [?] and several others. One day we met at our house and debated what to do about a letter to the editor complaining about me—it was a personal attack against me. I was running against either Bob Bauer [?] in the primary or against Mark Calder [?] in the general, I don’t remember which one.

But the issue was whether or not to respond to this letter, because if you respond to it, that kind of calls attention to it. If you don’t respond to it, then it’s implied you accept it. So maybe they said, “Marvin only shaves on the left side of his head and doesn’t shave on the right side”—whatever—something that you could refute if you really wanted to. But we decided not to. We thought the better, politic, thing to do was to not call attention to it. Lo and behold, the next day a letter came out, signed by Al Bartlett, standing up for me and protecting me, even though we didn’t ask for it and Al never called and said, “Do you think I ought to do this?” [chuckles] I always appreciated that Al Bartlett did that. He’s quite a fine man.

(Tell about the growth of the City of Boulder that you can look back on and explain now; sort of taking it through what you saw and what you see now.)

The first time I saw Boulder, I was probably eight or ten years old. I lived in Greeley, and we came over to Boulder for some reason I don’t remember. We went up to Nederland, up Boulder Canyon, and it was a dirt road. I got to Nederland, and I was young and a stamp collector—a postage stamp collector—I was so pleased to get to Nederland, because that’s a foreign stamp. Nederland stamps were Holland—Netherlands—by golly, here’s my chance! [laughter] I had fifty cents I’d saved very scrupulously, because I knew we were going to Nederland. I went into the post office, and I proudly announced to the lady, “I’m here to buy a Nederland stamp. From the country of Nederland.”

And she says, “Well, young man, I don’t think you’ll be able to do that here.” And she could see I was quite disappointed. She explained why I couldn’t buy a Nederland stamp in Nederland. “But,” she says, “I’ve got back in the back room a parcel post stamp. It costs fifty cents—that’s its face value—and it’s going to become quite valuable someday, because they’re not printing parcel post stamps anymore.” This was in the late 1930s.
So I gave her my fifty cents, and she gave me the stamp. And I was disappointed, but I got this wonderful stamp. I have no idea now where that wonderful stamp is! [laughs] But I’ll never forget her—or that experience.

Well, Boulder has changed, of course, since the 1930s. Then in high school we came over, because Greeley would compete against Boulder in athletic events, and I wrestled for Greeley High, so I would come over to Boulder. And I played golf for Greeley High, so we’d come to Boulder. Once spring, we came to play golf, and there was so much snow here, we had to cancel the golf tournament. Greeley was dry; Boulder was full of snow. So, we went to CU, where they had a track meet in the indoor _____ gym up there. And that seemed, well, a little slow. So we went downtown and looked for a pool hall. And we found a pool hall So we spent the afternoon shooting pool and drinking beer in Boulder. [chuckles]

Of course, Boulder was well-known to Greeley High for its Timber Tavern. It was a nice place to go to drink beer. And Tulagi’s was a nice place to go and dance. That’s the first place I ever tried dancing The Twist, which was a popular dance at one point. So, Boulder has obviously had its changes.

14:04
(Tell us about events that occurred in Boulder in the early days.)

One of the big events was Pow-wow Days, the Pow-wow. I guess they called it the Pow-wow Days. They had a train that went from the Denver Union Station up to our depot here on Water Street, at that time. And so you got to ride with the dignitaries, if you were a dignitary, and I got to do it just once, and that was when I was a state representative—you’re on board with the governor and Chamber of Commerce people and senators and so on. We got to Boulder_____ and unloaded, and then we had a parade downtown and went past Central Park. They had a pancake breakfast down there. The governor would be riding in an open car and waving to the people. I’d be riding in an open car, and I’d be waving. It’s just a great trip.

And then the Pow-wow itself was like a rodeo out at the Pow-wow grounds, which is now gone. They had a Pow-wow queen—a young high school girl—a really attractive young lady, and she’s wave at the crowd.

(Stan Johnson was the—)

Stan Johnson was the announcer. Yes. He got into that early on. A beautiful voice. A lovely, lovely voice.

(High school bands—)

Oh, we had Band Day in Boulder. Our law offices were at the old First National Bank building, at the corner of Broadway and Pearl, on the southwest [northeast?] corner, I
guess it was. We were on the third floor. Harl Douglas had the end office, because by that
time _____ moved to the bank to have his office, or he’d retired, or both. And the bands
would form on the west side of Pearl Street, and they’d march down Pearl Street, and
these kids were so lovely and so charming and so enthusiastic, and they’d be _____ and
say Haxton [?]. And so they’d look at me as a Colorado native and say, “Where is
Haxton?” Hotchkiss! “Where is Hotchkiss?” And the kids were just blowing their
trumpets and the girls are waving their batons, and it was just something to look forward
to. You’d come on a Saturday morning and the football game would be that afternoon.

And incidentally, the town pretty well shut down for football games: businesses closed,
people had parties at their homes before and after the game. Football was just part of the
Boulder community. It was a small town, and it was a big deal.

(What about the library?)

It used to be the Carnegie Library. Where this is now was our main library. And as
Boulder grew, the town leaders realized that the library just wasn’t large enough. So they
hired Claude Settlemeyer [?] to do the politicking necessary to raise the money to build
the new library. And that was a major event for Boulder to build that library. Now we’ve
got two branches in addition to that library, and the Carnegie Library has become the
history library, and that’s where the Maria Rogers Oral History Program has settled, and
that’s where those two lovely ladies, Susan Becker and Wendy Hall, are instrumental in
keeping this program going.

(What was the campus like in those days?)

One of the striking things about the campus was you had streets you could drive through.
[chuckles] You had thoroughfares going through. The campus was smaller. The buildings
were not as plentiful, as the student population was smaller. The activities were
somewhat more relaxed. We went to law school in the Guggenheim Building, which is
now the geography school. The new law school was built after I graduated.

When we went there, one of the activities we’d do was we’d pitch pennies outside the
back door of the law building. Three, four, five guys would get a handful of pennies and
toss them out to a crack in the sidewalk fifteen or twenty feet away. Whoever got closest
with their penny toss would pick up the pennies and go back with a pocket full of
pennies, if you were skilled at it.

(Did you see the development of the Crossroads area?)

Oh, yes. As an assistant city attorney I got involved with that. I’m trying to remember
now—I did more than just water work and municipal court work for the city—I also did
real estate acquisitions. I bought the Betasso property, for example, and the right-of-ways
down from the watershed into the city, and then we had to pick up the road—there was
no Diagonal—it was really quite debatable what was going to happen, how that
Crossroads development was going to come in. I guess probably the city planning staff
and the city manager’s office did more than the city attorney’s office did on Crossroads. It had a very big impact on Boulder, because you had a huge shopping center out there that pretty well killed the downtown for quite a while.

The mall came in and that was just a godsend for the creation of downtown Boulder, because no longer your big stores could survive downtown—your furniture stores—Blackmarr’s furniture store just couldn’t make it.

(What was it like to walk downtown in those days?)

It was a small town. I remember walking with Frank Buchanan about the first or second day I got hired, and Frank would be waving: “Hi, George. Hello, Pete. Hello, Betty.”

And I’d say, “Frank, how can you know all these people.”

And he’d say, “You will too in about a couple of years, because you’ll be seeing them every day. It’s a small town and people will be coming out of stores, out of the courthouse.”

It was a very friendly, warm feeling to live in a town where people knew each other. They knew each other, and you had the feeling they cared about each other. We weren’t a large town with strangers; it was a smaller town where we knew each other.

20:18
(What was the role of the Elks Club in the fabric of Boulder?)

I’d call it the Men’s Club of Downtown Boulder. It was at the corner of—whatever those streets are—Spruce and 13th, maybe? The amazing thing to me about the Elks Club was the inside was drab, no real glamour, no real spark to it—and I’d go in there, have lunch, maybe play a game of cards, and these guys I’d play with were the seediest, most disreputable people—I couldn’t imagine why they would dress and act like they would! Then they would go outside and they would look all right. [laughter] They looked just fine outside, but inside, in those surroundings, they just looked a mess.

Elks Club was important to us as a downtown club.

(Tell us about the district court. Judge Buck was, I guess, a local district judge at that time.)

Yes. Judge William Buck. Representing the city in water matters, it was my responsibility to see that our conditional water decrees were continued. _____ the efforts of enlarging one of our reservoirs to the west—like Silver Lake reservoir—and we hadn’t got our work done, so that we couldn’t go in and ask for a final decree. Every turnday [?] it was up to the city to come in and prove that the work they’d done was sufficient to
continue the decree. Nobody would expect the city to do a multi-million-dollar job in one year.

And so, I had prepared my documents for Judge Buck to sign, saying, “Yes, the City of Boulder has been diligent,” and I had Charles Hollenbeck on the stand, who was our engineer, to explain all the work that had been done in the previous year, and I’m the first one in the courtroom—at that courthouse, at that time—delivering my proof to Judge Buck.

And I said, “I’ve got an order here for you to sign.” And I started walking towards the judge.

Well, he’s sitting up here, and the carpet down below has got a seal of the great state of Colorado. I’m about three feet from that seal, where I was heading in a direct line to him, and suddenly he yells at me: “Mr. Woolf! Don’t step on the seal!”

Well, I was the first to be subjected to that. [laughter] [Next sentence hard to understand due to laughter] He was just adamant that nobody would step on that seal. I was dumbfounded: your mind just kind of stops working when a judge starts yelling at you.

So I looked up at him with a blank stare, and he says, “That’s what I’ve got a clerk for! You take those papers to the clerk and he will give those papers to me!” So we went through that charade, and we got the decree extended.

(How did you introduce yourself in the early years to the other attorneys in Boulder?)

It was a smaller bar. I don’t think we had but thirty or forty lawyers in town. You might have a better idea than I do. We didn’t have very many. Shortly after I was hired by Newcomer and Douglas, they said, “Marvin, we have a tradition in Boulder that when a new attorney comes to town and is practicing, he’s to go to every practicing lawyer in town and introduce himself. You just go into the office, and you tell the secretary—the receptionist—who you are and why you are there.”

I can remember, it was Chuck Williams office, and I went in and I said to the receptionist, “I’m new in town, and I’ve come to introduce myself to Mr. Williams.”

She would buzz him on the intercom, and he would excuse himself from his client he was talking to or the brief he was writing or whatever he was doing, and he walked out of his office to greet me and say hello and welcome me to Boulder and to practice. And Wade Connor [?] would do the same thing, Mike Grimm [?] would do the same thing. I went around to all the lawyers, met them all, and that was just a great introduction to the practicing bar at that time.

24:19
(Tell us about the early Flatiron Frolics.)
Flatiron Frolics was a golf tournament for the Boulder Country Club members. The Boulder Country Club out on Arapahoe was both a public course and a private course. I’m pretty sure that’s right—I think that’s the way it was—I’ll continue as if that’s the way it was.

We had a fellow named John Pudlik who was on the city council, and the memorable part of this story is that John Pudlik was on city council, he was also a liquor store owner [Pudlik’s Bypass Liquor Store]. He wanted the course to be closed for the Flatirons Frolics. Well, how are you going to close a public course?

It’s a three-day tournament. All the members throw money in the pot, and then there’s prizes and there’s banquets and drinks and all of that, of course, at the end of the day. It’s really a lively celebration.

This was to be done again, and the city manager announced that the course could not be closed.

And the city attorney says, “The course can not be closed.”

And John Pudlik says, “The course CAN be closed and it WILL be closed.” And they were not going to debate this.

So, _____ says, “Mr. Pudlik, you don’t have that kind of authority.”

“I don’t think you heard me,” he says. “This is a private tournament, and that’s the way it’s going to be. It’s always been that way. That’s the way it’s going to be.”

And he prevailed.

He’s the same John Pudlik who, when John Holloway was mayor and John Holloway went off to use the restroom, came back, and Pudlik had changed his glass of water for a glass of vodka. [chuckles] John takes a swig of what he thinks is water, and he coughs and he sputters, and Pudlik is just delighted. Great practical joke!

(Tell us about the Arapahoe Glacier hike.)

The glacier, of course, is west of town—they are no longer doing it—but the public, in the summer, would have a hike up to the Arapahoe Glacier, and that was a big deal. In a smaller town, it was a big deal for the public to get out and make that hike as a group. It was led by the Chamber of Commerce—Franny Reich, as I recall, would lead the hike. They’d gather two, three, four-hundred people to go up. And, of course, after you got to the glacier, you could throw snowballs, yell and sing, and have a good time. It was an annual event that the town kind of celebrated together.

(One of the celebrations, I guess, was the 1959 celebration of historic—-)
Hundredth year [of Boulder as a city]. Boulder made a big deal out of that. The role the men played was that they were not required to grow a beard, but they were expected to grow a beard. And they were expected to dress Western-style: boots, Levis, and bolo tie, Western hat. They set up on the lawn of the courthouse kind of a corral. Guys dressed as if they were sheriff, and if a townsperson would walk by and not be dressed appropriately, they would hold a trial. And they’d ask him why he wasn’t dressed the way he should, and in about five minutes he’d find himself convicted of disorderly conduct and improper dress, and be thrown in this enclosure where he’d be held for an hour or two, with people walking by and making fun of him. “Pete, what are you doing in there!??” That sort of thing. [laughter] And then they’d let him out. It was all done in good spirits.

(Are you knowledgeable about the famous circumstance where Patty Hearst spent some time in Boulder?)

Yes, I am. I never got a chance to meet her, and of course, a lot of this—Patty Hearst was daughter of the Hearst family—well-known wealthy family, newspaper publisher and all of that. She was either brain-washed or she really believed in the cause that she was engaged in [the Symbionese Liberation Army or SLA, a left-wing revolutionary group in the United States during the 1970s]. She was convicted—I don’t think she was present for the court case, but she was convicted of taking part in a bank robbery in some other part of the country.

She was really being searched for. Nobody _____ say where she was. It later developed that she was in Boulder County. She was up near Ward. She was living outside of Ward. There’s a lake called Duck Lake that has cabins around it. But—um, I can’t remember her name right now—it will come to me, I hope, because she was quite a nice lady—she owned those cabins. I think she gave refuge to Patty Hearst, and Patty stayed for a long period of time up there, and was taken care of in secrecy. Added a bit of celebrity status to this small town of Ward.

(Hazel Schmoll?)

Yes. Hazel Schmoll. Good.

(Did the DA have any prosecution interest in that? Or was it—not handled anything in Boulder County?)

I don’t think it was handled in Boulder County.

29:46

(Did you have any confrontation with the hippies, so-called, at that time?)
Yes, we had a large number of hippies in Boulder. They were a concern for those of the population that were not hippies. I was in the DAs office at the time. I can remember quite clearly that a hippie would come in—a man or a woman—and they’d have a legitimate thing to talk about, but they did not bathe very well! In fact, they didn’t bathe, I think, at all. And they’d walk in, and just the whole room would be filled with this unpleasant smell. And they’d come into my office and just fill the room with it. This is more than I could take. So I said, “Let’s go outside!” [laughter] So we’d sit on one of the benches on the courthouse lawn, and I’d talk to them there.

(Tell us about the incident occurring on Varsity Bridge.)

Well, this equates to Glenn Miller. Glenn Miller was a Colorado native, and he went to the University of Colorado. They made a movie with James Stewart playing Glenn Miller. One of the scenes in the movie was Glenn Miller walking across the bridge talking to a professor. They selected Cecil Effinger to be the person who walked across with Jimmy Stewart. Cecil Effinger was a delightful man who taught at the music school and was a composer. He didn’t get much credit in the movie, but those of us who could see the movie—“Hey, there’s Cecil!” And that was fun.

I think June Allyson played his wife, but I’m not sure of that.

(I know there was an incident that occurred on 28th Street, when the students were concerned and doing some rallying.)

Yes. Well, there was a strong anti-Vietnam War movement when I was in the DAs office. We had a big meeting of all the so-called people who were supposed to keep law and order. We met up by what’s now Regent Hall. So we had, for example, the sheriff and the chief-of-police and a lot of policemen and the District Attorney people.

And it came to us that the students had taken over the 28th Street bridge—the one that you still come in to town from, from Denver. The kids had closed the traffic. And so cars could not get through, going either way. And we were told that there were several pickups in Denver, rednecks coming down, as a band—maybe thirty, forty or fifty pickups—charging down the highway at forty, fifty-five, or sixty miles an hour, to crash into these students to make the highway open again.

Well, that seemed pretty serious to us, because the students are students. Say what we may, they’re still eighteen, twenty, twenty-two years old, and the idea of being run over by pickups was not appealing. So we authorized the cops to go in with tear gas and clear those kids out. And they did. And in so doing, they arrested a few for disorderly conduct. And the street was then opened up again.

And then we learned that the whole pickup story was false. There were no pickups coming at all. And you wonder how that story got started. But it certainly was used effectively by the law enforcement people to clear those kids off of the 28th Street bridge.
The University of Colorado football team played University of Stanford—Stanford University—in football. And the delightful thing about it was that we got to know the marching band. Their marching band was something like we had never heard before. The noon before the game, they came down to the mall—or the courthouse, not sure the mall was there at the time—and they set up their instruments, and they played for—oh, maybe an hour-and-a-half. They were lively, and they danced, and they jumped up and down, and they played great music, and they had colorful uniforms. And they were friendly to all of us, and we were friendly to them. And it was just one of these events that it was hard to forget.

Then they went up to the football game, and their half-time show was just hilarious—all kinds of crazy motions and gyrations and falling down and playing up at the sky with their trumpets and all. They were just a delight. They were just hard to forget.

34:17
(President Nixon was at CU at one time?)

Nixon came to CU one time, also at a football game. What was memorable to me was that we had visitors from England, and they were so delighted that we had a U.S. president in Boulder. To my surprise, and not over my objection, because I would never object to it, they approached him to see if they could get his signature. It never would have occurred to me to do that. They did, and they came back—they lived in London. They worked at the ____ court. They were plumbers. That was their occupation—plumbing, taking care of the ____ court, to make sure that the plumbing worked correctly. And they were just so happy. Nixon was quite gracious to them: found out where they were from, talked a bit about England. He signed his name on their football program, and then they came back and joined us and told us what a delightful president we had.

(Edgar Bergen’s daughter at CU.)

I’ll need help on this. She’s become a very famous actress, and I can’t remember her first name.

(Polly?)

No. [pause] Well, when she came—she was a beautiful girl. ____ right now: she plays in “Boston Legal”—is one of the shows she’s in, and she’s done movies as well.

[Liz]: Candace.

Candace! Candace Bergen. Thank you, Liz. Well, when she was at CU, she was just as pretty as can be and a celebrity. So, she caused a lot of complimentary talk: she was a
good student and people thought well of her. Disappointed she didn’t stay here for four
years. She went back to her acting career.

36:01
(Flagstaff. Chicken feet.)

Well, yes. Again, this is the war, Vietnam War, and we had a fellow who did the
Boulder-Denver truck line who came to me and—he supported the war. And so—the star
on Flatirons [Flagstaff] Mountain got changed to a peace symbol. So then he went up,
and he changed it to chicken feet just by reversing it. His message was—Don James, that
was it—Don James. That was his protest to the anti-protestors.

(Skiing at Chautauqua.)

Yes. The Boulder Junior Chamber of Commerce, now called the JCs operated in the
winter a downhill ski event—well, not an event—every day you could ski up there. They
had an old Chrysler engine with a rope tow attached to it, so it would take you up the
mountain—fifty, one hundred, three hundred feet—and you’d ski down. It was very
much a family sort of thing, because it was hard to get hurt on such a gentle slope as that.
It was a lot of fun for the townspeople to go to. JCs were responsible for running that
rope tow.

(A memorable Boulder High School graduation.)

Oh, yes! Our son Tom graduated—he was born in 1959. I’m trying to think of the year—
eighteen years later, so whenever that would be. They held the graduation ceremony at
Recht Field, the football field. And so, the parents and fans and students are sitting on the
south side. On the north side, where the visiting team sits is em
empty, because it is a
graduation ceremony. They put up the stands so that the speakers and the celebrities
would face south, looking at the people who are gathered in the stands.

Okay. So our son Tom is there to graduate, so we’re there, very proud of him, very
pleased. This guy is giving a tremendous exercise speech: “You’re going to go out into
the world, and you’re going to do good, and we’re so proud of you graduating from
Boulder High—.” And then there’s all this laughter. He’s being laughed at, he thinks, and
he doesn’t really make any jokes. So he’s wondering what people are laughing at. Well,
it’s pretty clear to me and the rest of us sitting out there looking at him what was
happening—the girls track team decided to streak nude across the football team track
behind him—there was about eight, ten, or twelve of these beautiful young ladies,
completely nude, [chuckling] starting on the west side and streaking across to the east
side. It took about—what?—three or four minutes to pass from view. And he couldn’t
understand why he’s getting such a response to his speech. [laughter]

39:03
(I know for a number of years you’ve been doing oral history interviews, and I know this is your first time on the other side—)

Yes, yes. It’s strange to be on this side.

(You have some memorable oral history interview tales to tell?)

Well, two mistakes come to mind. I’m interviewing John Coleman up at Ward, who was there when World War II ended. And we’re up on the _____ mining claim, overlooking the town; looking at Hazel Schmoll’s hotels and other things. And I’m asking John to explain it, and I’ve got the camera like Liz is using now, and I’m looking at the screen, and I’m not seeing anything. And I don’t understand—because the camera is running—what’s happened, and John has been talking for five or ten minutes about what a great experience it was for the war to end. And finally he looks at it and says, “Marvin, maybe if you took the lens cap off!” [laughter]

And then another time, I interviewed Bob Turner, our former city manager, right here at this table, and we talked for forty-five minutes until I realized I’d forgotten to turn the machine on. Bob was very gracious about it, and we did the interview again.

(Tell us about Mike ______.)

Mike ______ was a _____ energy lawyer, a feisty old man, practiced law with Wade Carnell [?]. The story is—and I wasn’t present, I would have loved to have been there—it was a nice spring day, warm, the windows were open in the courthouse, and Mike is arguing his case before Claude Coffin, who was one of the district court judges who came out of Greeley. And Coffin ruled against him. And Mike took up his stack of books: three or four or five high, and he pitched them out the window, and he said, “The law obviously is not going to be followed in THIS courtroom!” [laughter]

(So, Chautauqua.)

I don’t know. Can I come back to that one?

(Sure.)

Oh, yeah! Chautauqua Reservoir. We had a utilities manager, whose name I should know. But one of his jobs was to go around and inspect the reservoirs. He came into my office, because I was doing water work for the city at the time, and he’s so excited and so pleased, because he’d gotten up to the reservoir, which at that time was uncovered, and he found a young lady swimming in the reservoir. And she was not clothed. She had put her clothing on the edge of the reservoir. So he had the pleasure of telling her that swimming was not allowed and that she would have to leave the reservoir. And further more, he told her, I have to stay here—the law requires that I have to be here to make sure that you get out of the reservoir. [chuckles] So, that made his day.
Oh, Louis Armstrong! Well, he, of course, didn’t go to Boulder High. This is another JCs story. The JCs decided one good way, a foolproof way to do it, was to bring Louis Armstrong in for a concert and let him play at the high school auditorium at Boulder High. So he agreed to do that, and we agreed to pay his fee, which seemed very, very high to us at the time. I don’t remember how much money it was. But we were going to cover the cost easily by selling tickets for ten dollars apiece. And we were sure the townspeople would turn out to hear Louis Armstrong for ten bucks. But they didn’t! We filled up the auditorium only one third or one fourth of its capacity. And we just lost money unbelievably on Louis Armstrong. So those of us active in the JCs remember the Louis Armstrong concert with sadness. He gave a great performance, he gave a wonderful performance.

Well, this is another political story. I had a primary for the Republican Party against Bob _____, who was a real estate developer—a nice guy. I needed all the Republican help I could get. I was a recent graduate of the law school—relatively recent—so I thought, those professors up there know me, and if I can get some of their backing that might help me in the primary against ____. I think that’s going to be a pretty close race—he’s better known than I am. So I went up to the faculty, and I’d say, “I need help in this Republican primary.”

And Don _____ and all these guys look at me and say, “Marvin, I’m sorry, but I’m a Democrat. BUT, we’ve got one Republican. I think.” He taught constitutional law. First name was Al. Menard. Al Menard. He said, “You go talk to Al Menard. We think he’s our token Republican on the faculty.”

So I went and said, “Mr. Menard,”—because I’m very much on a formal basis with these professors. “Mr. Menard,” I said, and I explained my situation and my desperate need for help, and he looked at me in a kindly way, and he said, “Marvin, I’ve got sad, sad news for you. I’m a Democrat!” [laughter]

Oh, yes, yes. By the time I joined the firm of Newcomer, Douglas, Ralph Newcomer was an older man. He gave me the task of preparing a contract for real estate for sale. A purchase and sale of real estate. This lady wanted to buy a house, and she didn’t have much money, so she’s going to rent the house for a while, and if she paid enough rent, then that rent would be applied to the purchase price, and the deed would be prepared, and she’d have title to the property. So it required a contract between the two of them. I had never prepared such a contract, so I went to the _____ _____ forms books, and I copied word-for-word, and I just put in her name as the buyer, and put in the sellers name, and dated it, and didn’t change a word. And think, If it’s good enough for a phone book, it’s good enough for me.
So this contract comes in front of Ralph Newcomer, and he looks at it and at first you can see him just very gradually making changes with a red pencil. Then he gets angrier and angrier, and he gets to page two of a four- or five-page document, and he just gives up. He calls in Bill Paddock, and he says, “I don’t have the energy or the strength to train another lawyer. I just won’t do it. You take this to him, and you teach him, and you tell him, this is NOT satisfactory work for this law firm. We DON’T got to form books and copy forms verbatim. We THINK. That’s what we are supposed to do as lawyers. We’re supposed to think what it is our client wants to accomplish. And this document does not reflect it. So, please Mr. Paddock, explain to Mr. Woolf the proper practice of law.” [chuckles]

(Now, do you want to sum up with anything?)

Gerry, you brought back a lot of memories this afternoon. Thank you for being here to interview me. I appreciate that. And Liz, I appreciate you doing the filming.

I might conclude with three philosophies that are somewhat tongue-in-cheek and somewhat not:

I’ve always told our children, you should always buy quality, whether you can afford it or not.

Secondly, friends are precious, so handle them with care.

And third, when you’re dead, you are dead for a very long time.

46:57 [End of interview]