

**Jefferson County Public Library
Digital History Project
Interviews with Bill Knott
Tour of Library Locations, May 30 2008
Interviewer: Terri Bailey
Interviews recorded by Patrick Farrell & Ann Cress**

Part 1

Bill Knott One of the deals was that the citizen advisory committee would approve it if a library was a part of the package. We didn't have a lot to do with that idea, but some.

Terri Bailey It's interesting, citizen groups.

BK Yeah.

TB That Lakewood citizen group sure was effective.

BK Oh yeah.

TB I talked to them at least once and maybe twice over a period of years. And I know you must have talked to them a lot. And so did other people at JCPL. And they just seemed like such an interesting, kind of laid back bunch of folks. And then man! The doors would close and they'd go to work.

BK Yeah. The other problem with them was, not a problem so much, is they had a very clear notion of what they thought ought to be over there on that southeast corner. It was 55 acres that had never been developed.

TB Yeah.

BK And the first plan that surfaced from the city, probably Mike Rock's office, was a Super Target and that committee didn't want no stinking Super Target.

TB Yep.

BK So that plan was shelved. They had tremendous authority and they refused to meet or get involved unless the city was going to listen to them. So, they said okay. That was the two Linda's. Linda Shaw and I'm trying to think of the other one, the two Mayors. Two women, successive, Linda Shaw was the second one. I can't think of the first one. They were the ones that insisted that Lakewood Advisory group, whatever they called themselves, was going to be listened to. And so when they came to us and said, okay, the citizen group wants there to be a library, we said, well we have one over at South Pierce.

TB Sure.

BK And without realizing, we were opening negotiations. By saying we already have a library, why do we want another one?

TB Oh, you gave them an open-ended question.

BK Yeah. And they said, well.

TB Here's why.

BK Here's why, and maybe we'll have to help you with building it.

TB Ah.

BK And they did. They also got in the way quite a bit.

TB Well we ended up with a building that's pretty well placed, it seems to me and I like that building. I love that roof line, that open book line. You know it's, it's about the only frill in the building or around the building, but I like the looks of it. Not everybody recognizes what it is but I sure like it.

BK Well and some people think it's kitsch.

TB Oh, well.

BK And I'm one of them.

TB Ah. Well see, you know, who has more tchotchkes around their house, you or me? I do.

BK It was after the Columbine project was such a mess, that really was awful, that I and John Rossini went to the trustees in a closed session and said we can't do another building that way. I mean the Board was picking out the color of the toilet partition.

TB Yeah.

BK And so we crafted some new rules saying here's what the Board can do and here's what the Board has got to stay out of, which was most of the project.

TB Well, that's what made Standley Lake so much easier to build.

BK Yes. But the promise then was the Board would get to do certain things and the over all appearance, exterior appearance of the building that was a Board function. Once the inside was done, then, I didn't care who wrapped an exterior around it. And then the Board got to do a special feature in every building, of the new ones.

TB That's right. I remember that. They got to choose didn't they?

BK Yeah. Special feature at Standley Lake was the sundial.

TB Yes. Damn sundial.

BK A fond memory.

TB Who was that guy? Mr., no it wasn't Mr. Dooley,

BK Oh.

Ann Cress Mm-hmm.

TB Was it Mr. Dooley?

AC Mm-hmm.

BK Yeah, it was Mr. Dooley.

AC Yeah.

TB Mm-hmm.

BK One of the longest running controversies in the history of the library.

TB Mm-hmm.

- BK And Patrick, you don't know for example, it had to do with setting the sundial to daylight savings time. And this gentleman just raised hell. Saying that it was God's time and who did we think we were tampering with God's time.
- TB Well, you know, he didn't so much care I think if it was set at daylight savings time when it was daylight savings time, but he wanted it back on regular time. I mean here's this humongous structure in brick and steel.
- BK Well, he said, Couldn't you make the gnomon move and it was explained that that has nothing to do with the time that it tells. You have to turn the circle stones. Which was a different problem.
- TB Mm-hmm.
- BK Or he said, well couldn't you lift the stones out? I said sure. And sometime during the year, somebody would lift the damn stones out, because they're nice limestones and we would lose them.
- TB People do not realize how much, if it's not nailed down, it's gone, we experience in public libraries. People just, couldn't believe it.
- BK Anyway the special feature at Evergreen was the slate roof and the copper soffits. Not a slate roof, I'm sorry it's a copper roof and the roof of the children's tower is slate. This building was probably the worst library building ever built in the County.
- TB This Villa building that we're coming up to?
- BK Yeah. It's an awful building. It was not durable, it was not well crafted, it was a split-level building, with steps up and down. There was a vertical glass skylight about 25 feet in the air over the circulation desk and, not long after I got here, and we were standing and looking at it one day, I said, what happens if that breaks? Is that tempered glass? Oh, yeah, tempered glass. Don't worry about it. And one night, there was a light inside that lit this big square. And one night, somebody pitched a rock through it and it wasn't tempered glass.
- TB Yeah.
- BK There were shards of glass about this big stuck in the circulation desk. If that had happened with somebody there, it would've killed them. Or taken an arm off or something. So, we paned it with four Lexan lights, openings. So it's plastic.
- TB I keep thinking, you know this building sort of languished. Its fate was in a way tied to the shopping center.
- BK Yeah. The shopping center began to die.
- TB Shopping center began to die, a lot of the business here dropped off.
- BK Yeah. We made a mistake though, when we were done with this building, we declared it surplus, and we should have kept it.
- TB Yeah.
- BK We could have put the Foundation in there. This is one of the homelier buildings, the Young Americans building.
- TB The Young Americans building. Well here it is, 455 South Pierce. The Old Villa Library.
- BK Looks like it's holding up.
- TB Well, yeah.

BK But you can see the fascia is peeling off the building.

TB Yeah, it's coming right off there. That's copper isn't it?

BK No, it's just processed wood.

TB Just processed wood. So it's just separating.

Part 2

Bill Knott These lights were also out here in the parking lot and people kept taking those.

Terri Bailey And we never new why? Did they make a salad bowl?

BK The other thing that was interesting was, particularly if it snowed a lot, and then it was raining, or snow runoff, there's a drain, you can see that drain, and that would fill up instantly and the water would come down over the front door, just like a waterfall. It was kind of cool. So then we had to put this thing in.

TB And it would come down and freeze. And the sidewalk, heaved and when I was, I spent six months here as temporary branch manager. And we were always having people fall and you'd put cones out here and all kinds of nonsense. But it looks like they've gotten that resolved.

BK Yeah. This is the old concrete here.

TB Yeah. But we were just noticing when you looked out this door, you stepped out this door and looked that way there was, what city block and half of nothing between here and the shopping center. It was just a big parking lot. And people used to ring the parking lot and park over here and jump over the wall. That wall wasn't there. And so we had this huge parking lot for this little building. We were just saying, wouldn't it have been fun to have this building as a library when this all was built. It would've been cool. This was kind of a staff area out here. They put their picnic table out here and the delivery vans backed in here.

BK The first week I was here, one of the things I did was I drove out to the various branches by myself and I got to this one, probably early in the morning and there were people working in circulation. And I went to the back door and it was locked, and so I pushed, I knocked on the door.

TB We didn't have doorbells then.

BK Yeah. And Rosella Johnson opened the door and said, where have you been, it's just about time you got here and starts giving me hell. I said, Excuse me. Tell me your name. And she said, Who do you think you are? She thought I was a new page.

TB Oh.

BK I was coming to work and I was late. I supposed to be there at 9 and it was 9:30. We had a little trouble getting that resolved.

TB Yeah.

BK And Rosella and I never got along.

TB Never, never.

BK Always at arm's length.

TB But this was the staff room, and as Bill pointed out, this different colored brick was where the book drop was cut into the wall. And we were just saying this is one of Hank Fontaine's least desirable legacies to JCPL. The old Golden building, the old Evergreen building, this building. They built the staff room and the workroom in the same space. No room at circulation to do anything. No circ

workrooms. Hank's philosophy was, none of that was supposed to be done in the branches anyway. It was all going to be done centrally. You weren't supposed to be doing any work back here. You're supposed to be out on the floor. The only time you were to be back here was, on your break. Well, you've got eighteen people working in this building. So anyway, it took us a long time to get over that little nonsense of his. And all of the creative ways people tried to figure out how to make the room serve a dual purpose. It's not a whole lot bigger than...

BK No, it's pretty small, and you had the book drop.

TB Yeah.

BK Which came right into the room and fell on the floor.

TB Yep. Sitting there and "kaboom"! You'd jump and...

BK This looks nice. This looks a lot nicer than it used to.

TB Yeah. It does.

BK It used to be an expanse of asphalt that never had anybody parking on it, because it was too far away from the shopping center.

TB Yeah. Well, I have to say it looks a lot nicer than it did. And I think you're right. Think of what we'd be doing here if we'd kept this.

BK Well, if we had kept it, and could afford to keep it up, I think the Foundation could be in here and some other functions that would have been a very good idea. But at the time the building was so expensive to run, it was in such terrible shape, we just decided to get it out of our hair.

TB It's being put to pretty good use now. These people, the learning source, they're doing good things for the County so. Anyway, that's the Villa building. This is the one with all the built-in, Formica-clad, nasty colors.

BK It also had the triangular glass windows here in front.

TB Oh right.

BK Every time a window would get broken, the glass supplier would rub his hands with glee, because, oh god, expensive.

TB Uh-huh. Custom cut.

BK They must have been that big.

TB And the children's room was at that end, down here on the other side. And straight through, you went in the doors and straight in that center core was the circulation desk. Back in that corner was the adult fiction, pretty much fiction. Upstairs was reference, downstairs was?

BK Business reference.

TB Business and so on.

BK The children's room was over here. That pod right there, there were four pods around the central core of the building. There was circulation, adult fiction, the two-story sort of area, over on the children's side. Okay.

TB So there it is. That's Villa.

Part 3

- Terri Bailey And our next stop is going to be the Lakewood Dime Store. We'll just go up 6th avenue and go out. One of the things we did at Villa was put those self-flush toilets in that building. You know those automatic flush toilets? And most people had never encountered them. They were still pretty new. And, a lot of people were terribly surprised by that whole concept. And one of the few times I can think of when it was so hard not to laugh, and so important not to laugh, was a very independent little probably two-and-a-half year old, maybe three year old decided she would do it herself. She went into the bathroom, and her mother stood outside, you know, just waiting and waiting, and all of the sudden, this screaming coming out of that bathroom, we were pretty sure the child was being cut into pieces, by some heinous ax murderer. She had sat down on the toilet and it had caused it to flush. It had frightened that child so, it's a wonder they didn't have to put her back in diapers for years. Boy that scared her.
- Bill Knott I was going to say, probably lost all of her toilet training skills.
- TB It just terrified her.
- BK Well, Villa was an important building for us, at the time, because there was no such thing as a building big enough to do anything in. And that really wasn't, but it was a whole lot better than anything else that we had. It was about, what was it about 12,000 square feet, something like that?
- BK One of the interesting things about Villa was also the succession of managers in there.
- TB Yeah.
- BK We talked about Marilyn Kadish. But Nat Greer probably left a bigger stamp on that building and us.
- TB Oh, yeah.
- BK Her husband was a library school professor at Syracuse and then came here, in the early days of Denver University's renewal. The library school, he was on faculty, Roger Greer.
- TB And actually Nat stayed behind for the first couple of years that Roger was here.
- BK Yes. She was at the Onondaga Public Library.
- TB Yeah Onondaga Public Library. And she had some things I think she felt like she wanted to finish up here and there, and three kids.
- BK One of them died, just in her twenties.
- TB Well, she was a little older than that I think. But, I just lost her name. I hate this stuff.
- BK Whose name?
- TB The daughter who died.
- BK Oh. That was after Nat left, after she retired.
- TB Yes. Yeah.
- TB They took it upon themselves to write a history of the library and presented us a hand-calligraphied copy.
- BK That's right. Yeah.
- TB They had written the history.
- BK What ever happened to that?

- TB It's still around. And I think when we had been in that building ten years, perhaps and Dorothy Thompson took it upon herself that we were going to have an anniversary party. And this was in a time when the staff was really struggling with quite a few things. And I thought, one of the last things they need is a cake and cookies thing. So, I allowed, as how I didn't think it was necessary, we'd just have some nice bookmarks printed and Dorothy called Barbara Yost, and said, either you plan the party or I will. And if I have to hold it in the parking lot, I will. So, we had a party. She never stopped thinking about ways to better the library. Generally and she always wanted to think of ways to relocate the library because she just thought that the library should be in a better place.
- BK Well, as long as it was not out of her neighborhood.
- TB Well, yeah. I know that.
- BK When we started talking about building over at Wadsworth she was freaked.
- TB Well except she was one of the movers and shakers behind, when they demolished the old school building there, the old high school, she was one of the movers and shakers to save the library and the school, which was a kind of independent building.
- BK And we would move in there.
- TB We'd move in there. Ratty old building...
- BK It was ratty. And it would have had no systems.
- TB No.
- BK There would have been no heating, air conditioning, all that would have to have been added.
- TB Well, the building was torn down around it. So it had raw edges and talk about a nightmare.
- BK She kept accusing me of not wanting to put the library there.
- TB You got it.
- BK It was a dumb idea, Dorothy.
- TB But I have to say, she, like so many of our citizen groups, her heart was in the right place, she just didn't know anything about what libraries needed.
- BK We have these people who think of the library in an iconic way. Whether they use it or not is beside the point. Whether it serves a useful social purpose is beside the point. The point is, we want a library in our neighborhood.
- TB Yeah.
- BK I don't much care what goes on in there.
- TB Mm-hmm. Yeah, I don't read but, you know I think it's important that the children have a library.
- BK And it was always sort of "we" did this and "we" did that, that history that she wrote.
- TB Uh-huh.
- BK All the wonderful things they did in these little storefronts and, basements of churches, and the rest of it.
- TB Well, and it always tickles me when the city of Wheat Ridge sticks their oar in the water about their library.

- BK Yeah.
- TB Like, excuse me? But until the Wheat Ridge library was absorbed into the Jefferson County Public Library it was a community chest and what's the other? Youth of America.
- BK The first money they ever put into a library was when we were remodeling the Columbia Heights building.
- TB Right. And they gave us \$15,000, I think.
- BK Something like that. I went to the city council and said wouldn't you guys like to help? And they said, oh yeah, sure, \$15,000 didn't do the parking lot. Didn't fix the drainage in the parking lot.
- TB But that is the first and only money that the city of Wheat Ridge has ever contributed toward library services for their community.
- BK As far as I know. Well they think they pay taxes and so forth.
- TB Well, yeah. Oh sure. The individual citizens do, but the city itself. Now, I'm trying to figure out Bill this is that little Applewood Shopping Center and was it this door?
- BK For what? The library?
- TB For the library.
- BK No it was on the corner.
- TB It was on the corner, okay.
- BK When we moved in this had been an old Woolworth's.
- TB Okay.
- BK The roof has been realigned, and but it's available still.
- TB Oh, good. It did have a kind of an arch roof didn't it?
- BK Yes.
- TB Didn't it have a kind of a barrel roof that was wooden and noisy?
- BK And then right here was an old Safeway. Safeway was in business while we were here and then they closed about the time Lakewood was going under development. So, we leased that space in order to have a place to park when Lakewood closed. It was called LD. There are probably still books sourced to LD in the system.
- ***
- TB We are at 20th and Youngfield on the north, no I'm sorry the southwest corner of the intersection of 20th and Youngfield. And this was the library.
- BK The library came from there over to about this first column. That's about how wide it was. It might have been a little further. And then there was a wall through there, and this was a Safeway.
- TB I think you actually went to the second column.
- BK It might have gone that far.
- TB Yeah.
- BK I don't think it was that long, I don't remember it being that big, but it might have been.

- TB It was pretty wide.
- BK Yeah, it could have been. It was about 9500 square feet. The Board rented it for \$10,000 a year. And they moved in here, the year I got here, into this location in 1971, very early in 1971. So when I came for the interview, I was interviewed here in January. When I came to take the job, this whole thing had moved and my office was back there.
- TB Your office was back in that corner.
- BK Half way back on this side.
- TB On that side and behind it was Zona's?
- BK Against the wall.
- TB Yeah, but Zona's, I'm pointing over in there, was Zona's?
- BK Zona's office would have been straight back through the front door.
- TB Straight back? And off in that corner, across the back, over on this side was Technical Services.
- BK Yes, and there's another, there was another level in there. There was an overhead.
- TB Oh now that was above the bathrooms and stuff back there in the far back?
- BK Yes. It was also a storage area.
- TB I don't exactly remember where the circ desk was in here.
- BK Right inside the front door.
- TB Right inside the front door. Okay.
- BK The bookmobile was kept here in this little alley. And their support collection was around in back, through the back door, so they could service the bookmobile. And the landlord came to us one day and said you're going to have to do something because the bookmobile, parked on this cheesy asphalt was just caving everything in.
- TB Was caving in, yeah.
- BK So I think they had to rebuild part of the parking lot. I had the sense that this here, that overhangs the business is new. There was not an overhang here.
- TB Yeah. I think you're right. Well, and there's that different brick line. Yeah.
- BK So the library here was in about 5,000 square feet and administration was in about 5,000 square feet. And it was a low wall, the wall was only about 7, about 8 feet high. So you could always hear, if something was going on in Tech Services or they were doing a children's story hour or something. You could hear it everywhere in the building, because it was an airplane hanger roof and the sound carried over the building.
- TB And it was wooden as I recall. So it was just kind of a barrel.
- BK The women who worked here went elsewhere to go to the bathroom. It was so awful.
- TB Yeah, there was a staff bathroom but there wasn't a public bathroom.
- BK There was no public bathroom. I think Safeway let them use theirs.

- TB Yeah, bathrooms for the public in libraries is relatively a recent concept, they didn't used to make that. Couldn't go to the bathroom in grocery stores either. Just weren't expected to need to do that.
- BK I don't remember much else of what went on here. It's always been little shops and so on and so forth.
- TB Yeah.
- BK So there was a grocery store there at one time.
- TB Yes, there had been.
- BK Another grocery store, not Safeway.
- TB There have been several grocery stores that have come in over there. That's the one that neighbors around here hated to lose. It was only there a couple years.
- BK What's that, Safeway?
- TB No, no the other one.
- BK Actually the other one was Gold's
- TB And they moved up to 26th.
- BK 26th and Kipling.
- TB Yeah. But, anyway, this is the shopping center that had some pretty hard times. Merry Valentin's husband managed this shopping center and there were periods of time for a year or more that nobody paid any rent. Because they had a problem with management or the building or something and so they just stopped paying rent. And this thing would sit and be turning out revenue, such as it was. And nobody paid for it.
- BK Anyway, we were in that building from '71 until '76, moved to Lakewood late summer of 1976.
- AC Okay.
- TB To the railroad-themed opening. .
- BK Vern West.
- TB Vern West.
- BK Many years ago somebody unearthed bib overalls, the striped overalls that the staff wore.
- TB Either that or the pin stripped railroad caps.
- BK And red kerchiefs.
- TB Red kerchiefs, yeah.

Part 4

- Terri Bailey Now we kind of alluded to what a pit this Bonnie Bonham branch was.
- Bill Knott Yeah, I'm not real sure I'm going to be able to pinpoint exactly where it was.
- TB Well I know about where it was.
- BK Yeah.

- TB I think the building has changed over there enough, but we can certainly give the general notion of where it was. This library and this whole shopping center underside, was kind of in a dip. And I think probably the only library I've ever heard of that had to run a sump pump 24 hours a day to keep the librarian's feet dry. And to keep the bottom shelves and I don't think they even used the bottom shelves did they? In some places they did not.
- BK I had people telling me that it was the most wonderful place in the world. And I remember Zena and Ellen and we have pictures of Zena Van Blois.
- TB Yeah.
- BK Zena was interesting in that when she retired she had this scrawny little pension from the library and she had some social security from her husband.
- TB But she also...
- BK Sold her house to cable. And when they built the Wheat Ridge Cable Center, it's on Zena's property. Zena retired in style.
- TB Yeah. And she'd worked hard her whole life, with not much help, and she had this little old house in the middle of this chunk of what was probably a truck farm at one time. And she had always had a big garden and everything else, so she had a good size chunk of land. She sold that thing and retired to that Applewood Senior High Rise.
- BK She was living in that dinky little house, and wondering how to afford groceries and all of the sudden, none of that was a problem anymore.
- TB Everybody was so happy for her. Because she'd had a pretty rough life. And a kinder woman, more soft spoken, you'd never find.
- BK Nice person.
- TB You've already told about how Zena had check warrant number one when she retired. You gave her that all nice and framed.
- BK Didn't particularly want to retire.
- TB We're kind of doing Lakewood backward. This was, I'm sure, the finest library that the people had ever seen but that's because the first library was, as I said, behind the scrim curtain on the stage at Fruitdale Elementary with who knows, who knows what.

Part 5

- Terri Bailey We haven't talked on tape or film about the Red Barn Project. We talked about it at some of our preliminary meetings, but we haven't talked about that.
- Bill Knott Are you going to include it in the tour?
- TB Well, I don't think we need to, but I think I gave Ann a picture of it. They might splice that in somewhere.
- Ann Cress Good to talk about the project though.
- TB Yeah. It was another one of those completely off the wall, outside the box, visionary things that nobody could see except Vern West and he convinced you.
- BK He said, I got the perfect place and I said, I bet you don't. There's no such thing as the perfect place. So we got in the car and we came down here and it was a hulk. The doors weren't even

locked, you could just walk in and roam around. It had pipes that ran under the building for stream overflow. Lena Gulch runs down through here and goes right through the property that the library bought. The building was in receivership and the bank damn near paid us to take the building off their hands. We got it very inexpensively, spent about \$700,000 on the initial remodeling to make it useable. We kept most of the old building. Tore down one of the little additions that was just a shack but there really was a red barn on the property.

TB The Red Barn Furniture Store.

BK And it was a wooden barn with a, not a very good barn, but a wooden barn with a galvanized metal roof, standing seam roof. We went to the city with some discussions about using the main property before we bought it. And they made it pretty clear that we could use the building, but the barn was not, we could not use it, it was too much of a fire hazard. There was just no way to fireproof it. So we couldn't have any working function in that old barn, unless we went to extraordinary lengths to fireproof it. So we tore it down. Nobody seemed to bat an eye.

TB Well, it was such an eyesore. The whole property was an eyesore. It had been just let go to ruin.

BK There was no mechanical system, someone had stripped all the copper wire out of the building. But, it has served its purpose. It's been a good place for library support operations. Been there for years. We opened that in about 1987, 1988.

TB But it was what we needed at the time. Because we needed to get technical services its own space and more room. We had increased the book budget and increased the staff. There was no place for people to work. They were hanging from the skyhooks practically.

BK That building is on about 2.5 acres of C1 zoning.

TB This is the old Fruitdale elementary school. Now look at all the new addition on the back there. I don't know what that's for.

BK This is not in use at all.

TB No. This was at one time, well, we should probably get out. It's a venerable old building.

BK I love the Italian, brick corbelling. This looks a lot like, in its design, the old Evergreen Elementary School that we tore down in Evergreen.

TB Probably about the same vintage. Probably the same red brick. Right out of Robinson's Brick Yard.

BK I think the school district's adult education was in here for some years.

TB It was for a lot of years. I took several classes in here. But there was a small auditorium. And a stage and behind the back scrim were shelves of books that the mothers and people had pulled together and this was the first Lakewood library.

BK No, we're not in Lakewood.

TB Oh, well it was.

BK This was before either Lakewood or Wheat Ridge existed.

TB Right okay. It was just a community library then. I think it's interesting that this is a lot like the concept that they used at Wheat Ridge.

BK Yes. Kept adding to it.

TB To put an addition on and that was probably the, from the size of the vents and stuff, probably the cafeteria.

BK What's the new building? Is that an elementary school?

TB There's a sign on the side of it down there that says Norma Anderson Preschool?

BK Oh yeah. Norma was a state senator. Strong education supporter. Apparently this is just completely unused.

AC So now, what were the dates that the library was here?

BK Would have been mid sixties.

TB Late fifties.

BK It was from here, to Bonnie Bonham.

AC Okay.

BK Yeah, late fifties.

TB Mid to late fifties. This was probably one of those '53, '54, '55, homemakers club kind of a program.

BK Came along when the County library was formed.

TB And they were here until they moved to Bonnie Bonham. And that would have had to be probably no earlier than the early sixties because they had to get enough money to rent.

AC Okay.

TB But this building was in use.

BK Up until just a few years ago.

TB Yeah. Just the last, six or seven years ago.

BK But I'm going to guess it's on somebody's schedule to tear down.

TB Yeah.

BK Looks like they're just letting it go.

TB They are letting it go. Look at the wood frames and they've replaced some windows though in some offices, so I don't know, but, it's a shame, that's what about a 1910 building?

BK Yeah, I suppose. There's probably a plaque.

TB I was looking for that. There's maybe a cornerstone.

BK This looks like from the sixties.

AC Yeah.

TB Yeah. Early sixties.

BK After we left.

TB Yeah. I just heard last night on the news that Denver is closing eight schools. And they showed pictures and several of them are of the same vintage, and they were 1902, 1903.

BK This is not that old.

TB No? It isn't?

BK This is probably from the '20's.

TB Okay.

BK As the Evergreen Elementary School looked about the same, done about the same time.

TB I sure like those little frills though.

BK What frills? Up there?

TB Yeah.

BK Yeah. Fairly elaborate brickwork. And somebody, at some point in time, that corner fell off and they went back up and re-pointed it, and put it back up.

TB Re-pointed it, put it back up. Yeah. That's cool.

Part 6

Terri Bailey This was the last and most permanent location for the Wheat Ridge library, until, Columbia Heights School building, that we're in now. It was a storefront. You talk about a stripped down building. The shelves were made by hand, by somebody who wasn't real handy I think. As I recall, it didn't even have library shelving in great parts of it. And the librarian, Margaret Lowder, had moved that library I believe three times by the time they landed in this, from the barber shop to Saints Peter and Paul, in that area, to this location.

Bill Knott I don't remember them being at Saints Peter and Paul.

TB Well, it's right around there.

BK I know it's there. That's still a functioning school.

TB I think they were, right. But I was thinking that they had, you know, I may be not the best person to be doing this. I tried to tell you all, that I don't have any kind of a memory left, so. But I think there was another location after the barbershop, before they moved here. And all of this time, it was being done with donated money and finally when Community Chest.

BK Community Chest merged into United Way.

TB Right. And when their funding stopped.

BK They quit doing that kind of thing.

TB Wheat Ridge was one of the first libraries to join the library system as I recall.

BK No I don't think so.

TB You don't think so?

BK Because Wheat Ridge as a city didn't exist. It really didn't come into being until 1970. The library was...that's a story I don't know, how some of that was done. Because this 38th and Reed, the place where we're going, was a rental, but it was a corporate rental. It was privately owned.

TB Ah, okay, yeah.

- BK So probably what happened is that when they were doing the consolidation, somebody went to the owner or the owner's rep and said, We're going to start paying this bill. The owner's rep probably said, Sure, okay.
- TB Well, we'll have to look that up because, I think it's all written down.
- BK Well, Barbara Braswell's thing that went up to about 1970, she did, while she was getting her masters degree at DU, talks about the old Wheat Ridge locations and whatnot and she did a lot of work and at the time there were people around that you could sit down and talk about it. So I think she did a pretty good job of sort of fact gathering.
- TB I think we should mention too that, at one time there were a whole lot more libraries in Jefferson County, tucked away in church corners, and everything else. Little community-run...
- BK Well there really were only two incorporated communities in Jefferson County, Arvada and Golden.
- TB Edgewater.
- BK I'm sorry and Edgewater. Three. And then there's some kind of corporation in Morrison, I'm not sure what it is. So nobody was really doing libraries and so citizen groups were cranking them up. We almost bought that instead of the service center.
- TB That building?
- BK Yeah. Would've worked fine actually. There's a loading dock at the back, but it was a little too expensive.
- BK This location here is where Wheat Ridge's town center is going to be.
- TB Right here.
- BK The only building that's going to survive is that one. All the rest of this stuff, that old green antiques building, the mall, this restaurant, all the way through, I believe, to this street.
- TB Upham.
- BK It's scheduled to come out and the city is going to build a city hall and some other things.
- TB We are directly north of Wheat Ridge High School, not Wheat Ridge High School, what is that down there, the junior high?
- BK Junior High.
- TB Yeah, the Junior High.
- AC And Wheat Ridge wants us to move into their city center, is that right?
- BK They want us to build like we did in Arvada, and like we did with the city of Lakewood in Belmar. And it makes sense. The city would make us a pretty attractive offer. The city already sort of has made us an offer. And I think that's a real possibility. It may even have some priority, but I think most people have their sights set on Fehringer Ranch. That is going to be such an expensive project, it's kind of hard for me to judge how that's going to be done. Saints Peter and Paul is over here.
- TB Saints Peter and Paul. And the library was in this somewhere. And I think it's possible that it was in a building that isn't here anymore but it was right in this. But again it was a closet kind of a situation. This poor old building. We talked about that for Wheat Ridge library, off and on. It just sits there.
- BK This is the little strip mall.

- TB Right.
- BK And the cafe is still there. Now called Aquino's. But it was Nuchiks.
- TB It was Nuchiks and this where it says Bizarre Hair Fashions.
- BK The Wheat Ridge Library.
- TB But we think this was probably it, right here. And that looks like it's about the right width.
- BK A fairly deep building.
- TB Goes pretty far back.
- AC Okay.
- TB And I know that there was no air conditioning. And that back door was a godsend because they could prop it open and get a cross-breeze because this was hot down here and all this street pavement and everything else. This was hot. And, yeah, Aquino's. It was Nuchiks until last time I looked. An old fashioned American eatery. You wanted a pancake, or a grilled cheese sandwich that was the place to go.
- BK We were in this building when I got here and left it when we opened Columbia Heights over at 32nd and Chase. We were in this building from about 1970 to '79. Is that when we moved into Wheat Ridge?
- TB Yeah, about that. '79 or '80.
- BK This was the project that we wanted to do something about. And we were looking at the old Post Office down the street.
- TB That's right.
- BK Just five or six blocks. But it was kind of expensive and we were trying to figure out what to do about it and the County Commissioners bought Columbia Heights for us, without asking us about it.
- TB And we have not talked about why they bought that.
- BK Well one of the commissioners went to elementary school there. So did Kay Pride's husband, Bill Pride.
- TB Yes. That's right, I remember that now.
- BK And there's another one just like it over here, I'm not sure on what street, just like the Columbia Heights building. Identical building. Also built in the '20's.
- TB Yeah. That old federal style.
- BK Yeah.
- TB Well the Columbia Heights building, as Bill said, the County Commissioners kind of said, Oh excuse me, you didn't quite understand, we weren't asking you if you wanted it.
- BK We're telling you that you want it.
- TB We're telling you, you want it.
- BK And didn't give us any money to remodel it.

TB So, that is it and there is only now one person that we can find that ever worked in that building. And that's Amy Denniff. Amy Denniff started as a page in that building when she was 16, 15. And she's worked for the library pretty much ever since, but she started out as a page in that building. She worked for Margaret Lowder and she's the only one who could, nobody seems to know where Jeanne Ferris is. She's still living but we don't know where she is. And my guess is that she has moved to Arizona. I know one of her sons died and she may have moved to Arizona I think where the other son is. But nobody knows for sure.

Part 7

Bill Knott This is Wheat Ridge Junior High.

Terri Bailey That's the new Junior High.

BK Where Dorothy Thompson wanted us to relocate. And nobody ever paid any attention to her. Didn't fight her about it, we just couldn't build it.

TB Which was really almost the worst thing you could do to Dorothy. She did however have a wonderful time when Nat Greer was the librarian over there. They had a great time because they were sisters under the skin.

BK She decided, they had that crazy woman that did public relations for them, that they wanted to apply for some kind of Governor's award, and they got the award because her daughter was working at the Governor's office. So the award came to the Wheat Ridge library, didn't mention Jefferson County, and it was to Nat Greer, Director of the Wheat Ridge Public Library. And they had an event and invited people, nobody from the library staff, they had made an evening out of it. We were a lot better off ignoring her. We tried to locate the library here in what is now the post office.

TB Right.

BK And the developer made us a very attractive offer, but we had to settle for the Columbia Heights Building. That was an old GEM store. Sort of like a Costco without the membership fee. But GEM, G-E-M, stood for Government Employees Merchandise or something like that.

TB Yeah, you did have to have an I.D.

BK You just had to have an I.D. card that said you fed at the public trough in some way.

TB Yeah.

BK Which is about 65% of the population in Colorado. And they went out of business and the building was subdivided then. Big building. What's there now is the Wheat Ridge post office.

TB I had completely forgotten GEM stores. I can see their logo, even now.

BK Came out of the bay area. That's where they got started.

TB There's one in Kansas City out on I-35. It was thriving for a lot of years, it was out near my brother's. And I think I even went in one once. I don't remember what I used.

BK We went to this one. We thought it was pretty good. Andrew was little and they sold kids' clothes inexpensively.

TB It was one of those places, where you selected your merchandise and then you went away and came back a while later and it was waiting for you and packaged.

BK Strange place.

- TB Yeah. This area is so different somehow. So much more residential tucked in places than there used to be. This was all farm area.
- BK Yeah.
- TB Open fields. Echter's used to be out in the middle of nowhere. Over there on 52nd and Garrison.
- BK When we started visiting here regularly and they were building this freeway, they had very little trouble putting it through here, because there was nothing here. But once you get around the curve it went right through Applewood.
- TB I have a story about one of my homebound patrons, Marguerite. Who was a homebound patron for 20 years probably. And everybody loved Marguerite. What a character? Not a tooth in her head. And Marguerite had had several husbands. Lived in an awful old trailer over there on McIntyre and 6th Avenue most of the years I knew her. As her eyesight got progressively worse, with her cats, and so you went in her house was always about 85 degrees and smelled of cat box. And turned out that Marguerite's bathroom just simply gave up, after a lot of years. And I think the floor was gone and so on and the neighbors came in and fixed it for her. So everybody was helping Marguerite stay in her own home. And every year on her birthday, she no longer could drive, every year on her birthday one of her friends would come and get her and they'd take her to the old Grey Goose, over here. And she'd walk in and everybody would go, Marguerite and they'd bring her a Margarita.
- BK I think I remember Marguerite.
- TB They'd bring her a Margarita and a hamburger. She loved hamburgers, and they had good ones. And there were a few times during the year, when people would take her, when it wasn't her birthday. But that was her big birthday treat, was a margarita and a burger. And you always had the sense that there was a lot of Marguerite's life that we'd never know.
- BK Good. I'm glad Marguerite had a little something. Over here on this corner is the American Alpine Club, the library is right inside that door. You can see the gold sign, or the copper sign. A very fine library and they would love to work with the Jefferson County Public Library on getting their materials known and out there, and having people understand it's a public resource. Nice young man is the librarian. They have a preservation librarian. Wonderful stuff. It's a Terrific collection.
- BK Golden Library. 6500 scant square feet. And is now the Pioneer Museum. That's the city of Golden's official museum.
- TB This brick, it's fire brick, wasn't it?
- BK Well the brick is not very satisfactory, it's not water repellant.
- TB I knew there was a trick to this brick. I couldn't remember what it was.
- BK The building was up and down, structurally and the ceiling, was pretty good, except for the skylight. There was a kind of a cone-shaped skylight that just leaked forever. Didn't make any difference how much tar or anything else you put on it. It leaked. And probably still leaks. Leaks today, I'm sure. Maybe they took the damn thing out and roofed it over. The building was designed by Bill Coppock, whose wife Carol was on the library board for a long time.
- TB Years later.
- BK Years later, after he died. He was on the Lakewood city council. And there was another guy involved as the architect, his name was Bob Dunham and he was an architect in Golden. The two of them worked on this project. The building was known as the J. Lester Trezise Library until we convinced the Board that we needed to call buildings like this the Golden Library so people knew where it was. And the Board agreed. Some very nice features of the building, there's a lot of really nice windows straight back that way, looking out over the creek.
- TB A lot of light in this building.

- BK A lot of nice light in the building. The copper fascia is the way to put fascia on a building. You can see that it's just absolutely unchanged from the day they put it up, in 1970, and again a very good way to use that to cap a masonry wall, because water would come down through the top of that pretty easily. The building, again I said, was vertically stable, the roof was fine, but the floor shifted dramatically. We're on mining fill here, just like the library across the street is on mining fill. That building seems a little more stable, but cracks opened up on the floor of this building that you could drop a cat in. And when the time came, we were going to do an extensive rebuild of this building, and some citizens came to the trustees and said, We have a better idea. That building was empty.
- TB It was the Rec center
- BK They had built a new Rec center further up creek. And why don't we see if we can work out a trade. Well that's a 13,600 square foot building and this is 6,500. So we came out ahead by a large margin, in terms of square footage in the trade, but we got a much older building, so we had to do a lot more structural work, but I think the building has proven to be a very successful building. It could be five or six thousand square feet bigger. It is a little crowded in there and there is property on the upstream side of the building that we could build an addition on or we could convert that space into parking and move the library building closer to the creek. Clear Creek runs through here and right on the other side of the building is the kayaking chutes for kayakers. It's a great whitewater rafting place. The building has, I've always thought it was a good-looking building, I thought it was a functional building. Again it was so crowded in here, they could hardly move.
- TB Think of those house shaped, are those called pentagrams, is that house shaped?
- BK Yeah.
- TB And put them point-to-point and then took the points out and that's what that was. And this one had the children's room here on the front with windows. Back in that back corner was the staff room. Again a Hank Fontaine special with you know, one room. On the back side was the adult magazines.
- BK Newspapers, microfiche.
- TB Right okay, kind of the reference type area. And on this one was the circulation area right up front and then the adult fiction and non-fiction. That's where Lois Ehlers' collection was.
- BK It again was a serviceable building, it wasn't big enough, and it's simply un-expandable. There was no place to make it bigger.
- TB Yeah, there's nowhere to go.
- BK And the city liked that idea, because then this building became theirs. It's on the ground, it's near city hall. It's part of a complex of buildings through here. It really worked out well for everybody. They had to vote on it because it was city property. There had to be a vote in order to perfect the trade. So there was a special election. There was one polling place. It was like right inside the door, and I believe the vote passed only one vote against it or something like that. Somebody told me that no vote was probably the chief of police who wanted that building for his own stuff and so he voted against it. He denies that. But something like that.
- TB Do you want to go ahead and look? Do you think you could see anything in there?
- BK We can walk in and see. Yeah.
- BK This was the librarian's office here.
- TB That was, right.
- BK Children's room was there.

- TB But that's one of the ones that the administrative task force carved that library out for Carol, because there wasn't one. Now this was the periodicals and it's kind of fitting that the Harmsen collection is there.
- BK We hung some of the Harmsen stuff over here, but not very much.
- TB Well, no, but I mean, Harmsen and Golden and all that.
- BK Oh sure. Oh yeah.
- TB This was the periodicals and newspapers, and as Bill said microfiche, reading area and so on. Kind of a general all purpose adult area. Did this have a door or it was an emergency door, right?
- BK It was an emergency door.
- TB It was an emergency door. With that wonderful patio we built before we left.
- BK We had a gift.
- TB We put a garden out there.
- BK We had a gift from somebody.
- TB This area was, golly, just about where that tall dark bookcase is was Lois's place.
- BK This was circ.
- TB No, our circ was here. Circ was behind you. No I got it wrong?
- BK Circ was here. The desk came all the way across. Reference was over here.
- TB Oh, all right. Oh okay, I've got them turned around. That happens. The building looks so different.
- BK Yeah it does. They've done a nice job.
- TB And they have made another room back here. They've shortened these rooms. There's another small area back there.
- BK That must be the passageway into City Hall.
- TB Is that what you think?
- BK That's what I think.
- TB Is that new?
- AC Yes.
- TB Okay.
- BK The building ended there. There was a big window.
- TB Big window there. Well they've done a beautiful job.

Part 8

- Terri Bailey Well, I have to say, I find myself often in the minority when you talk about the Taj building. I like it.

- Bill Knott Well, I don't mind it. It's just so badly, so cheesy construction inside, it's a constant headache for maintenance. A lot of money was spent on the exterior and design and the dome and the rest of it, and yeah, I think.
- TB And the light fixtures.
- BK Yeah, but it's really sort of tacky painted drywall. Poor quality. They've replaced the carpet in there about three times since they've been in it. And, a lot of the passageways on both arms of the building, are where the windows are and then all the offices are off those passageways and very few people have an office with a window.
- TB Oh.
- BK Because instead of having the passageway on the interior of the hallways.
- TB They're on the outside.
- BK They're on the outside, along the windows. So when you walk through, you walk past all these windows, and nobody gets an office with a window—not nobody, but you have to kind of be somebody.
- TB Yeah.
- BK But it could have been every office in the building, could have had a window. They sent me a requisition form when they were beginning the design and development saying please tell us how much square feet and what kind of FF&E you need in order for the County Library Headquarters office to be in that building.
- TB Ah.
- BK It would've been included as part of the project.
- TB Well that would have made management an interesting prospect.
- BK I took that to the library Board and they said, are you going to ask for our opinion or are you going to tell them no. I said, I'm going to tell them no. They said, well that's our opinion too. That would be a terrible place to work.
- TB Oh. Well, it would be a terrible place for a library director.
- BK Yeah. I don't know where that notion even came from and I'm wondering if it had to have come from one of the characters that was giving me a hard time. Incidentally, I suggested to Rene, she was looking for a summer event of some kind, that she maybe talk to you if she had a chance, about the children's summer dinner theatre that you did.
- TB Oh the picnic theatre? Yeah. All of that stuff is up in Archives. I tripped over all of that stuff.
- BK That was a lot of fun.
- TB That was really your idea.
- BK Well you're the one who made it work.
- TB But it was fun. It was an incredible amount of work. And you're dodging the weather all the time. That's the only hard thing about it, is that happened to be a particularly rainy summer.
- BK Terri did these. We hired a team of actors who produced a show and had a little portable stage and then on every library site, at the end of the summer, the end of summer reading, I guess.
- TB No, it was just a part of the summer I think.

- BK Was it?
- TB Yeah. It depended on what time of the year we could get our actors in.
- BK And they did an outdoor theatre and people brought brown bag...
- TB Well the first two years, I cooked the hot dogs.
- BK Yeah that's right.
- TB First two years, I toted a roaster full of hotdogs into every...
- BK Big coolers of lemonade. It was fun.
- TB Yeah.
- BK They were all done outside.
- TB We had to quit providing the food, not because we couldn't afford it but because we were serving hot dogs and those little bags of potato chips, and King Soopers was donating the buns, and second year we got Arrowhead Mills, or whatever they are, that natural food store, to donate cookies for dessert. But parents were so unhappy with the unhealthiness of the food and we couldn't afford to do healthier food. So we, I think we just did beverage and dessert for the last year.
- AC About what time frame did you do that theatre, what years?
- TB Oh, I honestly don't remember, I'd say it was late '70's.
- BK Yeah, late '70's.
- TB There were two things going on at that time. That was when we were really having a difficult, difficult time financially so most of everything with the exception of the performers, most of it was donated or carved out of something else. But there were a couple of years there where I actually had three job descriptions and was evaluated on three separate job descriptions. One of them was community service, PR for lack of a better word. Bill talked about having named the head of children's at Lakewood and the head of reference at Lakewood as being the coordinators of reference and children's and that not being very satisfactory. We were without a head of the Lakewood library at the time. And Jeanne Coffey, who was Public Service Head, was also running Lakewood library. And she simply couldn't run Lakewood and coordinate the activities, so I actually was the ersatz coordinator of children's and reference. And there was a third general description, and I don't remember what it is, but those were the two important ones. And so I was coordinating children's and they were all involved in the summer reading program. Remember those were the days with really not much staff and we wanted to do it, so I ended up doing it for the first two years. And then really the third year we had so little to do, that it really was just an extended library program. They did it outdoors and we provided the beverage and the cookies, or ice cream, and the libraries ran them, the third year.
- BK Yeah. They were fun.
- TB They were fun. We had a lot of kids show up. A lot of families showed up. First year they were free. I think the second year we charged a quarter a head.
- ***
- TB All right, we have here the Morrison library.
- BK And you're right, Timberline Creek Company Décor and Gifts.

TB Yeah. It's been that kind of place. Now when it was a library it was white and kind of faded blue trim. Wherever this is purple was kind of a, oh what I would call a milk-tank blue. And this, you can see from the outside what little we had in there. The only thing I remember about the interior of this building was, Liz McCutchen, who was the librarian here, and Kittredge and Conifer, had scrounged this absolutely flawless little eastlake desk.

BK School Master's Desk, not an Eastlake Desk.

TB Oh I thought it was an Eastlake Desk.

BK I used it in my office after we closed this library.

TB Okay. All right.

BK Had a lift up front. Two work surfaces. Had a hole in the top for an ink pot. And I don't know whatever happened to it. But it was a nice old desk.

AC When did you close Morrison? When did you move out of the Morrison building?

TB I looked that up and I had it written down, but I can't remember. It was '78.

BK A little later.

AC Oh, that late? Oh okay.

TB Maybe '75.

BK Can't remember. It wasn't really associated with not having enough money. It was having to do with, the building sold, and there was a good possibility they could raise the rent a lot. And the Board said, it doesn't do enough business. Liz was looking at retirement.

TB Yeah. Went up by 400% or something like that.

AC Okay.

TB Well, we needed help everywhere. Liz ended up, as the little libraries closed, spending more and more and more of her time at Evergreen and she ended her career at Evergreen.

BK That's right.

TB Yeah. I bet this is open.

BK There is some sense this might have been the smallest free standing public library in the country.

AC Really? Wow.

BK Yeah. We've talked about it.

TB ...for our archives. For our library archives.

Unknown Wait until we get the flowers in.

TB But this was it.

AC Is it alright if we?

Unknown Oh, by all means go ahead.

AC Okay. Thank you.

- TB There was a gas stove in here.
- Unknown Well, there's a gas stove there, but originally there was one right there.
- TB Right there.
- Unknown Because you can see where the...
- TB The flue sure. There was a gas stove.
- BK So it was just open like this?
- TB I don't think it was. I don't think it was open like this. I think it had a false ceiling in it.
- AC Okay.
- TB Or a dropped ceiling.
- Unknown I'd be willing to bet it did.
- TB Yeah. Probably one of those fiber drop ceilings.
- AC Wow.
- Unknown But I'm glad it's open.
- TB Yeah.
- BK Yeah, it's nice. You can use it for storage.
- AC Yeah, it is. Very nice.
- TB But this was. This was the size of it. And Liz spent a third of her time here. Actually if you look back on the log of the old bookmobile schedules, the older bookmobile schedules, they had all of the libraries and their hours on it. And this library was open a day a week, a day and a half a week. Liz was full time and she spent her time between those three libraries, so a third of a full timer which was 35 hours in those days and so she was probably open ten hours a week.
- BK She lived in Conifer?
- TB Yes above Conifer. Up on Elk Run. Thank you very much.
- AC Yes. Thank you.
- Unknown Oh you're welcome. Anytime.
- BK Thank you.
- Part 9**
- Bill Knott See these green-roofed buildings? Those are the only complete remaining CCC Camp left in the United States.
- Ann Cress Really?
- Terri Bailey Yep.
- BK [Civilian] Conservation Corps. And that's where they lived. And they did trails in the mountains and they did all kinds of things. But all of those buildings are still there.

- TB Wow.
- BK Dozens of these old Conservation Corps barracks literally, barracks, there's one right there.
- TB And they turned some of it over to the Denver Mountain Parks.
- BK Mountain Parks uses it as a maintenance space.
- TB And there is a guy who is like the last living employee of the CCC and he and a group of volunteers from the Morrison area are restoring a couple of the barracks.
- BK Are they?
- TB And they had never been open to the public before, and when Denver had that big weekend, the architecture weekend that they had, they had one of those barracks open. But we came out here, they were only open on Saturday, not the Sunday. We came on Sunday and didn't get to go in. The Canyon Courier had an article about those barracks. Didn't CCC have a lot to do with the building of Red Rocks?
- BK Yes. And the big trail system and the road system, up around, through that park.
- TB I drove this highway every day twice for years and years and years. And if you look carefully, you could see the old highway bed is still down there. And every once in a while, you'll see the remnants of one of the old single lane concrete bridges down in there. And when you get up here a little closer to the edge of Idledale, town of Idledale used to be called Starbuck.
- BK Is that right?
- TB Not having anything to do with Starbucks coffee, obviously. But that filling station is just the foundation lines, really pretty much knee-high of stone, maybe a little higher, was the service station at Starbuck. And that was all there was in Starbuck. But people were coming up this road in their flibbers and their model A's and model T's or whatever, would stop at Starbucks and gas up and probably get their punctures fixed and all kinds of stuff. This was a real adventure of a road.
- BK Well and at night coming down there, it still is.
- TB Oh, yeah.
- BK Black as coal. There's not a streetlight anywhere.
- TB Up here near the park, that was called for years, the Barnes Castle.
- BK Barnes Castle.
- TB And I don't know anything about the Barnes but they had a garage sale once. And my mother happened to be visiting and my mother was always up for a garage sale. Always up to look and see what a house looked like at the end of the road. So we drove down there and there's a fabulous old stone house down there, about the same vintage I think as the Gates place. And the guy was an inventor, a tinker, and money galore. Had an automated, probably wasn't computerized, it was probably mechanical, dragon that tucked down under the parapet of one of the roofs and to thrill his grandchildren, he'd bring it up. And it would roar and throw smoke. And I don't think it did anything else, it just smoked and roared. And he also had a train that ran all around the property down there with a few bridges. That is really some kind of a place. It's been sold only in the last decade.
- BK Idledale.
- TB Yeah. Here's Idledale. And the trees are so heavy now, I'm not sure we can see the remnants of old Starbuck, it's not Starbucks, it's that building right down there. That stone filling station, that's Starbuck.

- BK That road there is called the grapevine, for good reason. Goes over to I-70. We're just two miles from I-70.
- TB And it's open range up there.
- BK And the Genesee houses, you can see some of them. There's one up there. Genesee Development. Their water comes down here, they pump water from down here.
- TB I don't think they get it from Bear Creek. They just built a big reservoir up here, which was a huge contentious issue up here.
- BK They've got some kind of pumping station down here somewhere.
- TB Yeah, they do. It probably does come from the creek, but I don't know where they treat it.
- BK You can see a lot of the Genesee homes up on the ridgeline.
- TB And this was all private land until about fifteen years ago. Open space bought it and made it into Lair o' the Bear park. It's a beautiful, beautiful piece of land. One of the prettiest pieces of land in Jefferson County. It's a hundred and some, a hundred and fifty some acres isn't it? Or was it more than that?
- BK It's bigger than that.
- TB Was it?
- BK All of those hillsides. It goes around the bend up that way. It's pretty big. Great, just great hiking. Wonderful trails. Beautifully engineered trails. And mountain biking.
- TB I don't know that anybody ever lived on it particularly. It was just a beautiful piece of land. This is where, you can really see how it's one of the first places to get spring, because it's protected down here, so the leaves come out down here a little earlier than they do anyplace else on this road.
- BK That's the main trail still running alongside the road.
- TB There's the road to the Barnes Castle, right over here.
- BK Yeah. Below the tree line.
- TB The house is right down here.
- BK Does somebody still live in it? It looks like they do.
- TB Yeah. It's still a private home. Can't see it from anywhere.
- BK Here's the reservoir.
- TB Yeah. This is the new reservoir that Genesee built. Boy, this had people ticked off. For one thing it's so darned ugly. There's one of the old time great bridges down there. It's just about a lane wide. Maybe a lane and an eighth. It's a footpath now. People who are fishing use it. Coming up is the Gates Mansion, of Gates rubber tire fame. I don't know if old Mrs. Gates is still alive or not. I don't think so.
- BK Well, they still keep the place maintained.
- TB There are, I think, Gates children. They had built a rather substantial addition for a caretaker. But I don't think anybody else lives there, any of the rest of the time. It's daunting to think that, if you won the biggest lottery pot that has ever been, you still wouldn't be able to buy the Gates mansion. Couldn't afford it, let alone run it.

- BK Now I wouldn't have been able to find Kittredge library, so I'm glad you're along.
- TB Now this is the way we used to drive to go to the library and to get our mail. This was my post office for years and years because we drove this way and didn't go toward Evergreen after Maryanne came down. And that end place was the library. And this end was the post office. Now they had just put this new porch on there. They were in the process of putting it on. Otherwise it was just bare building. I think it is all now apartments. That was the post office. The post mistress was Jessie Kirk. And I had a box in there for years, and years, and years. And this was the library. And that was one of Liz McCutchen's libraries. And this was a club library, I just read the history of this library the other day. And it was one of those 1953, '52 club libraries that started. Just the community ladies got it started. And this was dark, oh man was it dark, that's what I do remember about it. Had a gas stove, that's how you had heat.
- BK I have a recollection of a pool above. Does that ring a bell?
- TB I don't remember the pool. But that doesn't mean it wasn't there.
- BK There was a concrete wall at the back of the building.
- TB Yeah, there was a retaining wall.
- BK That was the back wall of the swimming pool. It was always a little cool and damp.
- TB Yeah. Well. Tucked into the hill. But, never got the sun. This was it and there are in the archives, I think a couple of interior pictures.
- BK Of this?
- TB Of this. But you certainly could not swing a cat. Or change your mind.
- BK I don't recall coming here more than a half dozen times. Just wasn't any place I needed to go.
- TB Well, I was here perhaps more often because I lived up here.
- BK When did we close it?
- TB Closed it early. Before '75 I think. '75, '76.
- BK Did you live up here then?
- TB I moved up here in '73. Yeah I was only at Arvada for a year.
- BK Oh, you lived over by the lake.
- TB I was only at Arvada for a year before I moved up here.
- BK And you lived by the lake.
- TB Yeah. A cabin by the lake. One of the former Evergreen librarian's cabins, Jane Kimble. Now are these, look at these. Those are lilacs. Look how late they are.
- AC Yeah.
- TB Shady. They're so shaded. But anyway, that's what this was.
- AC All right.
- BK We could come around with a plaque that says, formerly the location...
- TB Well, you know, I'm sure there are still a few people here who would be able to remember that.

- BK Yeah, I'm sure.
- TB Jessie Kirk still lives up here and I know she would remember it. There are probably still families who live up here who remember it.
- BK Kids who came to the library.
- TB Yeah, but you know the population in this small town turns over fairly high.
- BK There's something to be said for a County library doing something about library services in communities like Kittredge.
- TB Absolutely. Oh, absolutely.
- BK They had the money. Really should be doing something up here. I don't know what.
- TB Yeah. We had a tough time with the people of Kittridge when we closed the library. We put a bookmobile stop in here and people just never felt comfortable with it. They just never felt like it was their...
- BK Yeah, we didn't keep it very long.
- TB Well, we had it for a couple years, because we really tried to give them a chance.
- BK Yeah, but we stayed in Idledale longer.
- TB Yeah, we stayed in Idledale a lot longer but that was because we had that one family down there that would check out 150 books, every two weeks.

Part 10

- Terri Bailey We were talking about the prodigious doll collection that was put together by, I dropped it Bill. Who put that doll collection together?
- Bill Knott Julia.
- TB Julia? Were those Julia's dolls? I don't remember that.
- BK She would look up addresses of Indian Reservation Craft Shops and say, The library would like to have an Indian doll, a woman dressed in your tribal clothing. She wrote all over the world and people sent these dolls. And there was some kind of society or something, so the dolls were all the same size. There was some collecting organization or something that collected dolls about that big, whatever scale it was.
- TB Presentation dolls of some sort.
- BK Yeah. And I think most of them were given to her.
- AC And that's Julia.
- TB Julia Brewster Douglas. Who was the founder of the Evergreen Library. Julia was the sister of Canon Eric Douglas. Canon of the Episcopal church. And, she came out here from Newark, I believe and took care of the house for her brother I think. And because she had been a librarian, she got here and realized that there was no library. She got herself a little red wagon and she asked the Newark Public Library, the director who happened to be John Cotton Dana, if he would send her some books. She had plenty of her own, and Canon Douglas had some, and she got some from other people in the community, and every summer she would go up and down the street with her little red wagon, checking books in and out. Canon Douglas and the family had money and

when they were doing work on this whole Evergreen municipal conference compound up here, he built a little stone building for her, out of his own pocket, for her to have a little library. And that little library was the precursor of, well it was the first. Pauline Kermit was the director of that library, when they hired Maryanne Brush in 1970?

BK '71.

TB '71.

BK She came to work in '71, and she was hired in '70. She got there some months before I did.

TB And prior to Pauline, the librarian had been Jane Kimble. But Jane and her sister, who was always just known as sister, I don't know what her name was, had this little fishing camp over here on the river and Jane had been a social worker at Hall House and all kinds of things, and ran the library for a lot of years. And then she retired and Pauline Kermit ran it until the library hired Maryanne. Between the time Pauline Kermit took it over and Maryanne came, the library joined the County. Pauline was never sore about it, or unpleasant about it, but her nose was always just a little out of joint because, she had been the librarian and she was supplanted, because she wasn't a professional. Now we are close, are we not? Isn't it right there? Is it this one?

BK This was set up as a sort of a retirement and summer camp for the Episcopal Church. And all these buildings were little craft locations and their kind of sleeping quarters.

TB Now the original had a shed built onto it. But the original stone building was the library. And it looks like it's a private residence now. So I don't think we can do anything about it.

AC Okay.

BK More than one, there are three gas meters. It's a triplex or something.

TB Oh are there? Okay. Yeah.

AC So they were here when you came?

BK Yes. But the Evergreen library was under construction.

AC Okay.

BK And as soon as it was finished. We had to move out of here. There was a big attic; nobody had been in it in years and we hauled stuff out of there for days. Putting a lot of stuff that's now over at the Hiwan museum. There was a huge, Eastlake table that went over to the Hiwan. Still, that's in the dining room, but it belonged obviously to the Douglas family. There was a stuffed osprey that was in my office for years. It's over at the Hiwan. And there was a lot of Indian basketry and that sort of thing.

TB Eric Douglas's personal collection of Indian artifacts was what really was the genesis of the Denver Art Museum's collection of Indian artifacts.

BK If you go and look at the Indian stuff at the Denver Art Museum, it'll say Douglas Collection.

TB Yeah. And there were some other things that he had, baskets, there's one Kochina doll that stands about this tall, it's a classic Kochina figure. Some other figures but more baskets I think than anything else.

BK There were boards.

TB Yes, cradle boards.

BK Cradle boards. And there was a doll cradleboard.

- TB Yes.
- BK The cradleboard's only about that big, and it had a little doll.
- TB My favorite story about that was when we were moving into the new library, Bill and Maryanne had this discussion about the value of these things. And Maryanne said, well they're such a part of this and the community is grieving this, so let's just put them up. So they put them up around the new, at that time, the new library. And they were on display there for several years. And we were talking about insurance I think and wondering how much we should insure things in that building for. So Maryanne drove a Jeep Commando. Now do you know a Jeep Commando?
- AC No.
- TB A three-year-old child with a bent toothpick can get into a Jeep Commando after it's locked. It's the world's easiest car to break into. She had them, had these baskets and cradle boards and things like that packed in newspaper in a big box in the back of her car and she met a friend and they had lunch, and then she went over having arranged to meet with the curator of the Indian collection at the Denver Art Museum. And he's rummaging through the box and he says well this is 1500, that's probably another 2-3000. And she suddenly realized that he hadn't even got to the bottom of the box yet, she was hauling around in the back end of this commando about \$250,000 worth of Indian artifacts. She closed the box up, canceled everything else she had planned to do in Denver that day and drove straight home because she was just terrified of losing any of that stuff. And she was afraid to put it back up on the walls. She talked to Bill and they agreed that it could go to Hiwan, to the homestead, because Canon Douglas had the homestead too, so it was fine.
- BK It belongs in a museum.
- TB Yeah, it's museum quality stuff and it should be there.
- BK It's on long term loan. There's paperwork that says it still belongs to us. The artifacts all came from the fact that Canon Douglas, in those years was the head of the missions on the Indian reservations in the Southwest. And he toured regularly, went out to visit the missions, and as he did so, he bought or people gave him these things or they were just laying all over the place and he picked them up and threw them in his old car and brought them back.
- TB Well they also had at one time at the homestead a display of Canon Douglas's turquoise and silver jewelry.
- AC Yeah.
- BK He was buying the stuff.
- TB Pennies on the song practically. And in some cases, as Bill said, because he was a member of the church, they gave them to him.
- BK But all of these buildings, there, the old bell tower.
- TB And across.
- BK And then down here there's some stuff, that blue house, all that stuff all belongs to the Episcopal...
- TB This was Catholic Church down here, this was nuns from the Catholic Church.
- BK The road down there divides them.
- TB Yes. But across the way over here, there are several other buildings, that was all part of the Episcopal conference.
- BK And across the highway. Everything you see with a red roof in the hills.

- TB Yeah, across the highway, yeah.
- BK We had an all staff meeting in that building.
- TB Well that was the only auditorium in town at that time, but that now belongs to the Evergreen Center for the Arts, and is mostly used for concerts and things. That's the Elks Club building and that is for sale. And the rest of this is other stuff that's affiliated. It's still a very active Episcopal Church. The women's Christian, I'm sorry not women's Christian, Christian outreach for the Evergreen area is housed here and I think one of the public daycares is housed here.
- BK Some wonderful old, early twentieth century...
- TB Oh yeah, it's great stuff. And the building that's down here right now for years and years and years was the home of the Evergreen Players. We had a theatre in there. And I spent many nights of my life in that theatre running lights from backstage. And they now use the building across the way for their plays.
- BK Great place.
- AC Oh, yeah.
- TB That's a beautiful old stone building. I wish we could see a little bit more of it, but since it's private property, I'm kind of inclined not to.

Part 11

- Terri Bailey That building is only stone on three sides.
- Bill Knott I think it's faced. It's probably over a frame.
- TB It's certainly all wood inside.
- BK They've done a lot of work on this church. Cleaned it up.
- TB Yeah it's, and now I'm going to really show you the theatre. Which I haven't had right yet, of all the three building's I've pointed out. It was this one, right here.
- AC Oh.
- BK Okay, with the bell tower.
- ***
- BK That's supposed to be the oldest building in Jefferson County.
- TB Well, it wouldn't surprise me.
- BK Evergreen Bible Church. It's been moved like four times.
- TB It wouldn't surprise me.
- BK All these little tar paper shacks along here now, either fell down or have been winterized.
- BK The thing on the end was a drive through, a drive through book drop.
- TB Yeah. That was a drive through book drop.
- BK It's been closed off. Now it's used for offices or something.

- AC I didn't know we had a drive through.
- TB Well, we couldn't use it. We had a book drop, but you had to get out of your car. And this was before open space had been passed.
- BK Open space was '72 or so.
- TB But they hadn't bought much.
- BK No.
- TB That was the first Jefferson County owned park in the mountains. Now these also had interesting things. There were holes in this, places where the stone had not been put in. And they were just holes in this, to let light in and to add an architectural feature and they have sealed all of those off. And there were some of the same things out in the drive through.
- BK This was a difficult building. Very badly made, all this metal soffit was pressure fitted and in the first serious wind storm we had copper flashing all over the neighborhood, down in the creek. Eventually, when we left the building, you can see some of the old flashing is up on top of that mezzanine.
- TB Yeah, up there.
- BK That's the original. This stuff is all new. And when the County took the building over, they rebuilt the entire place. It has a suspended engineered wooden floor in there over a crawl space.
- TB Bounces.
- BK It bounces. And underneath is a crawl space that is black widow heaven. I never saw so many spiders in my life, the only time I went down in there. The sky lighting extends out into this area, and on into the building, and it leaked all the time. Just like the one at Golden. All skylights leak. I don't care what they say.
- TB This corner here was the children's room.
- AC Okay.
- TB This was the children's room and they had this nice big window that faced out onto this park. I shoveled dirt out here when we made this into a park.
- Unknown Oh my gosh, really?
- TB Yeah.
- AC '91, yeah.
- TB When we built the one across the way?
- BK Something like that. This was the creation of Maryanne Brush, who thought that this was just a mess out here.
- TB Oh, it was rubble and pieces of concrete, it was just awful.
- BK And so Sally Oxner who still subs for us, her husband was a landscape architect for the Park Service. He donated his time and Maryanne and others, and Terri went through Evergreen and raised money and they bought specimen examples of various kinds of trees many of which are now gone, but many of which are still here. Big planting up here and they had this concrete wall put in.
- TB John Oxner ran the bobcat. We rented a Bobcat and John unloaded it off the truck and did the grading.

- BK There was never any intention for this to be grass.
- TB No.
- BK But that's what ended up here.
- TB Well mostly because we didn't have any way to water it.
- BK Yeah. When we decided to buy the property next door, we also decided to do a uniform survey because it would all be County property. And so we had a surveyor come up and do a survey. And he found that there, based from the datum line downtown, a sizeable error and by the time it got multiplied up here the property line was like this and the fence, which is still down there, was like this. So the fence was not on the property line or anywhere near it. And we went to the owners and we said what do you want to do and they said, gosh, we don't want to tear down the fence and put it on a new property line, so we swapped Xs. So we gave them this piece, and we took this piece, or vice versa, so that the property line and the fence, which is again still there, was the same. That was hundreds of hours of attorneys' fees.
- TB Oh, I'm sure it was. I'm sure it was. This was not a door. This was a window. Just a big picture window. And this building has been carved up into so many offices and things, you really almost can't tell when you go inside, it's almost easier to tell from the outside what was in there. The children's room, in that corner.
- BK Somebody was waiving a picture around at me the other day where I'm in a yellow t-shirt and jeans, and it was at the dedication of the reading park.
- TB Of this reading park. This area was all the adult area, just one big open clear span, space. Reference was in there, adult fiction, non-fiction, magazines. No actually no, I'll show you magazines. Everything but periodicals was in here. This, when we built the park, was just trash.
- BK Well, it still is trashy, but we had to build this later because of drainage from the hillside, just making the turn up there because we had changed the hillside, with the big rock for the new library. And so this was a drainage way and it kept filling up with gravel. The drainage was coming from the hill, but mostly from an area where the water was channeled under the road. And the County re-channeled that, I think it's mostly been fixed. Not the problem that it was. This is a tip up concrete building. Came in tinker toy pieces. They stood them up and stuck them in the ground and they hung these big panels. A very lousy way to build a building in this climate.
- TB Well in this climate yeah.
- BK Just not very stable.
- TB But boy it was the cat's pajamas when it was built.
- BK Oh yeah.
- TB It was pretty cool.
- BK Compared to what they had to go to up there.
- TB Oh, yeah. It was big and clean and, and unlike, most of our other new buildings, they had had the luxury of having somebody who knew about books build a book collection from scratch. For over a year, Maryanne Brush sat down there and ordered and received books, and got them in the catalogue and everything. And when they opened they had a dynamite collection. And in those days, branches, libraries were allowed to kind of specialize or focus on specific areas of subject and this library was the arts library. So, it had a pretty spectacular collection of art materials and so on.

- BK When we opened the new building we just gave it back to the County and they made it a motor vehicle sheriff's sub-station.
- TB This room here on the front with all of the windows was what we call the browsing room. And this is where the newspapers were and the periodicals and some comfortable chairs and, we had programs in here all the time. We had a community calendar in there for a long time. So it was just kind of the general community room and around the corner was that drive through and right off the drive through was the staff room. And, staff room, workroom, thank you Hank. And that's all there was. It was pretty basic. And in underneath the skylight was where the circ desk was off to the side of the skylight, just around the corner from this room. But the partitions and things inside look so little like anything that it used to be, it doesn't do any good to look.

Part 12

- Terri Bailey Well that's the, all I can think of is Chancellor Mitchell, which dates me terribly. The Chancellor at DU, just resigned, just retired, what was his name?
- Bill Knott Dan Ritchey.
- TB Yes, you're right. Okay. The rumor is that he somehow knew, he and Cab Childress I guess would be the ones, who knew that the copper market was going to just go skyrocket. And they also knew of at least one copper producer that was going out of business. It was closing down, they had been absorbed or something. And they went in and bought every piece of copper they had in their warehouse to use on the campus buildings, which is why all of that fabulous copper was on the DU buildings at a time when nobody else in their right mind would buy copper.
- BK We own from the top of that hillside to the road up there, Camel Heights Road all the way to this sidewalk. This is our sidewalk, that we put that wall in. So we own part of the creek, which doesn't amount to anything, because we can't use it for anything.
- TB Well, I'm going to pull over here. This is the mountain home of the Seniors' Resource Center. If you look at this little yellow house, right here on the end, this little bungalow, that was the original house. The rest of that has all been added.
- BK Pearly Jarvis.
- BK Nice little house. She walked me through there one time. She had 40 years of back issues of the Denver Post, stacked up all over the house. You could hardly walk through it.
- TB Yeah. She was very fond of the library and she was a very strong library supporter. You probably had as many conversations with her as I did.
- BK I liked Pearl. I thought she was okay.
- TB Oh, I did too. She was just a salty character.
- BK I first met her at the dedication of the Evergreen Library when that old crowd was there. I don't remember who they all were, I know she was one of them. There was a bunch of old Evergreen Library types. All knew each other, all about Pearl's age.
- TB Probably Jane Kemble.
- BK Yeah. Jane was probably one of them.
- TB Well, and Evergreen, when I moved up here in 1972, Evergreen still had hippies living here. There were still a lot of people living in these little unheated, un-insulated cabins back in here who'd go to the Rec district every two or three days and pay their fifty cents to take a shower because that was a service the Rec center offered, there were enough people up here who didn't have running water or indoor plumbing. There were still a lot of holdover hippies up here in the early 70's. They were all library users, faithful library patrons.

- BK Willie Nelson's kids came to the library.
- TB Yep. Willie Nelson's wife came to the library. But Willie kind of came in just ahead of the Rolls Royce crowd.
- BK Right. No, not the Rolls Royce, the Landrover, Humvee crowd.
- TB Yeah but we still have a Rolls Royce crowd too. I love to see the limos pull up to the high school, and the junior high. Actually you see more of it at the junior high school. By the time they're in high school they're driving their own, but. Kids get driven to the junior high school by the chauffeur. I don't think there's as much of that kind of wealth up here now as there was in the early 90's. I think those folks have moved on to greener pastures. There's still a lot of wealth up here, but I don't think it's that kind of ostentatious wealth anymore. This is the old music camp, it was Marshdale, I'm not sure I know exactly what it was before it was a music camp. I think it was a lodge, all these little buildings around were a part of that lodge.
- BK One of them was a restaurant. Was it this one right here?
- TB No, it's this one down here, coming up.
- BK It was pretty good for a while. We came up here.
- TB Marshdale was the summer dormitory for what was then called the Blue Jeans Symphony, which is now called the Colorado Youth Symphony. Housed up in Breckenridge now, but it was here. And Walter Charles got a hold of this property and he was the founder of the orchestra and that's where the kids stayed for the summer. And that was where their kitchen was and all that kind of stuff.
- BK Came up here for dinner and ran into Ellen Wakeman and her husband. They live up over in here.
- TB Well, it's been converted to a restaurant and then it's kind of come and gone as a restaurant. But it is currently a restaurant again.
- BK You been there?
- TB No. No. And that has been made into a B&B. That was really more the dormitory I think and this was more the kitchen and that was dormitory and rehearsal rooms. This is the restaurant part. Man they're making a mess up here. Can't tell what they're putting in. Drainage it looks like.
- BK Yeah, drainage is what it looks like.
- TB That whole little area back up there is called Marshdale.
- TB Those of us who still give people directions up here by using as a point of reference the yellow barn, are going to be in a world of hurt if this barn ever falls down. Or the color fades so much that you can't tell that it's yellow anymore.
- BK Aren't they going to restore it or something?
- TB There are always plans to do something with this building.
- BK Some society was...
- TB Yeah. Always plan to do something with this building but...
- BK And it really isn't as big of a deal as they make it out to be.
- TB It isn't?
- BK No. I don't think so.

- TB Well, it's just an old barn building but it, for so long, was the only landmark up here.
- BK But it was a prefab Sears and Roebuck catalogue item or something like that. There are barns in the Midwest with entire walnut trees as the barn beam under the main floor. Those kinds of things, better barns. But you're right, it's really the only thing like it up here.
- TB The yellow barn was here before any of the shopping centers were here or before the Safeway was here, before there was anything else, you went out and hit 285 and it was, you know there was nothing there, and this was about the only point of reference until you got down to Aspen Park. And there wasn't a lot in Aspen Park.
- BK Other than the hotdog stand.
- TB Other than the hotdog stand, which is not there anymore.
- BK Where'd it go, do you know?
- TB Yeah. It went up the road to Bailey, and as you go through Bailey on your left-hand side, just as you leave Bailey, between the edge of town and Glen Isle, it's over on the left-hand side.
- BK Okay.
- TB Some people bought it and apparently it is up and running this summer. And let us hope that future generations of Coloradoans do not suffer the same perils by eating there. The hotdog stand was one of those buildings that was made to look like what it sold. So it was a giant hotdog, made out of concrete. Made as, on kind of a lark, they did quite a bit of history of it when they moved it, it was just kind of done on a lark by a couple of guys. For years, you're going down 285, well it's just 10 miles past the hotdog, or whatever, and they kind of lost their land is what they did. So rather than tear it down...
- BK Is something going in there?
- TB Yeah. So they moved it but oh my lord, greasy.
- BK I stopped there once with a car load of junior high school volleyball players.
- TB Well, they could probably tolerate it.
- BK They thought it was fine. I thought it was dreck.
- TB They could probably tolerate it. I think most adults would have a real tough time with it. Our systems just aren't attuned to that much grease. But the novelty of eating in a hotdog was pretty hard to pass up. And here's the old yellow barn. And right down that road is the turn off to the right to Conifer High School, which is where our current Conifer library is. But this was an old working ranch when the Conifer library was here. They still worked this ranch. Conifer Junction School, built in 1923.
- BK Well, now we know.
- TB Now we know.
- BK Of course, I guess I always knew. I thought it was something like that.
- TB This is the old Conifer Library. I don't know if there are a lot of kids here or whether or not they'll let us go in. Now Bill never liked this building, but I always liked it. I always thought it was charming, partly because of that big porch.
- AC Yeah, that is nice.

- BK Looks a little better than I recall.
- TB It was a two-room school and underneath that side there is kind of a basement area for the teachers, used to have a kind of a teachers' room down there. And the library, this was a closet right here on this side, and there was a closet, and that's where we kept locked up all of the library stuff: the book catalogue, and the till and the stamp for the books, and that, supplies and everything. And then around this side of the building, around the walls, was the library collection.
- AC Now when did this one close and when did we have this one?
- TB We closed this one in '81 I think. '81 or '82.
- AC Okay.
- BK And not a sound from the community.
- TB No, we did the closure here much like we did the one at Daniels.
- BK And we put a bookmobile in the parking lot here.
- TB Put it down at the Safeway.
- BK Oh, that's right.
- TB Put it down at the Safeway.
- BK I thought we came in here for some reason. And people seemed to think that was fine. But they didn't use it.
- TB No.
- BK It was just kind of an embarrassing little hole in the wall. It was open a day and a half a week or something.
- TB Oh, it was open one evening a week, I think, by the time we closed it. It was open from like three to seven or something like that. And by this time, the only staff we had was Robin Liebert. We didn't even have a page working here. There wasn't anything for them to do. And we just peeled off, I think five hours because we gave her time to drive back and forth from here to Evergreen. She was the children's librarian at Evergreen and she ran this little library. And, we just about broke her heart when we closed it, but there was certainly nothing going on there.
- BK That's more charming than I remember.
- TB Well, when we were here it was one of the publicly funded preschools. I think it's not quite the same thing now, and it looks like the Rotary did a project for it. Put a new roof on it and stuff, so, I think it looks a little more charming than it did when we had it.
- BK Maybe it didn't have the flower boxes.
- TB Yeah. I think that's probably true. None of this fence was here.
- BK No, the playground wasn't here.
- TB And that new stone facing, I think it looks a lot better. This was just a big open gravel parking lot.
- BK Pretty handsome old building.
- TB I have always loved this building. So anyway, that is the Conifer library. We closed this in, I think it was, I'm not absolutely certain, but I think it might have been '85, '84, something like that. And we

then opened the, because I remember being surprised at, it was not as long between the closure of this library and the opening of the high school as I thought it had been.

BK High school?

TB The high school. Yeah.

AC '96.

BK '96.

TB '96 and I think we closed this in '85. So I think there was only about 11 years difference between the two, and if you'd asked me before how many years we had not had a Conifer library, I'd have said, oh 20 at least. It wasn't that long.

BK I'll be darned. I guess it seems a little bit longer.

TB Yeah. I thought it was longer.

BK I really thought it was more the early '80's, but yeah.

Part 13

Bill Knott We own this property right there. Meyer Parkway is the name of the road and it goes down through there and crosses that road and we're on the other side of that road.

Terri Bailey 3.16?

BK It wasn't that much. Now, since they did the four lane it took another half an acre of the road.

TB Oh, did they, at the time of the gift it was 3.16, or something like that, acres.

BK The gift was in the early sixties and the plan was that we would build a library although it was never big enough to do anything and it had a lot of water on it.

TB And it was a swamp.

BK Yeah. There's the Meyers' house.

TB Yeah this brown one. And that was the old stage stop. This was the old stage road. And Norm was a pilot, you'll see his plane, well his plane was in there the day before yesterday so I don't know where it is.

AC Did you say they gave a little bit to the library?

BK The property that I pointed out back there, Meyer Parkway, was given to Jefferson County to be used solely for purposes of building a public library.

TB Was given specifically to the library, wasn't it?

BK Well, the deed was given to the County and the deed had a reverter in it that if the County didn't do anything about it, it could revert back to the Meyer family and I suppose they can still claim it because there is never going to be anything built on it. When the four-lane went through and they took the front end off the site, I think the family might have lifted the reverter. So the reverter might be off the property now but it was on the deed originally. And praise God for the four-lane 285 coming in.

Part 14

- Terri Bailey These little houses were the original little houses down here. This was a little area that was developed and I think there has been a little book written about it, the library has many copies of it I'm sure. And the books were called, I think the book was called Fifty Cents a Week.
- Bill Knott Yeah.
- TB Fifty Cents Down or something like that.
- BK Dollar Down and Fifty Cents a Week.
- TB Something like that. And that's what these lots were. And they are big lots. And people lived.
- BK Or people bought two lots.
- TB Yes, and they lived here in little houses and you can see that they have been added on to and added on to and added on to. But they had big gardens and the dads worked in the town and sometimes stayed in town and then they'd take the trolley out at the end of the week. Came right out on Colfax and then mom and the kids stayed out here in the summertime because the kids were out of the polio danger and it was healthy out here and so on and it was cooler out here. And that was this development.
- BK Well they could've picked a better color.
- TB Yeah I know. I thought you'd like that.
- BK Any other color.
- TB I knew you'd like that. That's why I didn't tell you what color it was.
- BK Well for years it was sort of bile.
- TB Cause I knew you would love it.
- BK You remember this place being opened?
- Ann Cress Yes, oh yeah. I do. I was here when it closed. We were part of that.
- BK It was not a money issue or anything else. This was just...we had the book collection locked up in here for six days out of the week.
- TB It was also, for me, a staff safety issue.
- BK Yeah. Over here all by herself.
- TB We had one door, no other exit. This area has cycled through many times and it was a little scary down here sometimes. There were years when it was kind of frightening. And the furnace is an overhead shop furnace in there, no other way to get heat and it's gas and it is an up overhead open-flamed gas heater between the staff and the door. And that was really the issue. That plus the fact that we simply could not get this place automated to the point that people were getting the same service that they were getting anyplace else.
- BK Couldn't get data lines in here. This is what, like a daycare center.
- TB Yeah. Open Space. It was built as the community center.
- BK But it wasn't a grange.

- TB No, no. It was built as a community center by the Daniels Community Club and they built this on as a library years later. But this was their old community hall for all of these houses down in here where young families with lots of children and they had programs. I think sometimes they had Church going on in there. There is a decent size kitchen so they could have potlucks and community gatherings. The community club finally kind of withered and died and so the building was given to the City of Lakewood.
- BK Yeah, Parks and Rec owned it.
- TB Yeah Parks and Rec. And they took it over and they made this into, it's not exactly a Head Start, it's another kind of a bootstrap program. Kids come here from as far away as Aurora for this particular daycare program and I don't know what it is. I don't know if it still is that or not. But, they were always very heavy users of the library. That was probably the most underutilized building in the system.
- AC It was open what, on Wednesday afternoons?
- TB Yeah.
- BK And it was a little bit of a hangout place. It was a public building and the door was open and kids would sort of congregate, there was nothing else. There was no retail or commercial or anything else.
- TB When I first took this on it was open fifteen hours a week. It was open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. And we did a pretty good business there and then this area began to change and the kids grew up and you know it kind of changed and our circulation dropped off and money got tight and we began to carve away on the hours here.
- BK Sent the hours to Edgewater.
- TB Yeah. I don't know. I don't remember that. But Sally Oxner used to be the librarian over here.
- BK Grace Rogers used to be the librarian.
- TB Yes, Grace Rogers came over here to be the librarian after she left technical services. I spent a lot of time being concerned about staff over here because we went through a real bad spell when Sally Oxner was the librarian. There was like a guy in the neighborhood who had a bit of a fetish and Sally would come out to go home and she'd find those stairs and that railing and these trees and bushes all draped with woman's underwear that he had pilfered from dime stores and Sears and places like that and it happened several, not just once, but several times. It gave Sally the creeps. And of course he was somewhere watching.
- BK Gives me the creeps.
- TB Yeah. He was somewhere watching and so I came down here for weeks and weeks and weeks, every night at closing, every time it closed and stayed with Sally while she locked it up and we drove her car away and stuff and it just, that kind of thing, just makes it impossible to feel as though you can safely keep a staff in a building.
- AC And now we closed this in what: 2001, 2002?
- TB 2003 actually.
- AC 2003. Okay.
- BK Closed five years.
- TB 2003. There was a lot of discussion among some people in the neighborhood about keeping it open and running it as an independent library and Bill and the Board were very good about talking to them and saying okay this is what we can do for you. This is what we are doing for Pine, we

would do no less for you but we won't do more. And I think they got a whiff of what kind of work it was going to take to operate a library here for so little return and I think they gave up on it. What got them was the Director's insurance. That was kind of the final...

- BK They were going to have to form a Board or the city of Lakewood wouldn't deal with them. They had to be an organized something.
- TB And they had to pay their own Director's Errors and Omissions Insurance, which is breathtakingly expensive. And Pine pays for theirs.
- BK Yeah. We used to pay for it.
- TB No we paid for their liability insurance, we paid for their Liability and Contents but we don't pay for their Director's insurance.
- BK And when they figured out that they're going to have to actually raise money, and we offered even to leave some significant part of the collection behind if they wanted it...
- AC We did. That's right.
- BK We could have left it but after a year the collection would have to have been out of date. And they didn't have any money, so we left and left with the understanding that if they wanted to do something they could do it but it doesn't concern us.
- TB Yeah. Well we kept the collection boxed up, especially the children's collection for over a year just so that if they decided to open it. That was what they were most concerned about, that we would be ready to walk in here with the entire children's collection and drop it off. But, that's it. That's all of them.
- AC Great.