

## Gray, Ruby Estelle King

Track 1 – Intro by D

Date and history of parents and grandparents. Grandmother was born in County Cork, Ireland. She had 18 children, two sets of twins.

Track 2 Moved here when she was fourteen, with her sister so sister wouldn't be lonely. Brother was a priest, didn't like it. Great Grandfather was captain of ship out of Cape Cod, Mich.. His nickname was "Boomer Fuller". Sister worked for 71/2 years for the Goldsworthy store.

Track 3 Parents in Barrion County Mich. Mother lost her first baby, 13 lbs.

Track 4 Mother very sad, Doctor asked family to take care of a boy, then grandparents took baby and she was heartbroken. They didn't expect me either. My Father was wonderful and I would crawl up on his lap and he would tell me how he found me in an old hollow log. Oh I believed that story. One sister, who also worked in Telluride 7 1/2 years Goldsworthy store, used to be owned by Peckerrine. Elma Julia was her name

Track 5 Moving to Telluride, Father had to get out the heat from the furnace. He bought during land boom in Delta on Red Mesa. People told him he couldn't get water up there after he bought the property. Couldn't get his money back. Parents moved to Delta in 1910. So he moved us on to Telluride that year. Lived in Andy Mar house up by the hospital, full of bed bugs.

Track 6 Andy Mar had a store and lived on West Main, the brick houses. Her first boy was born up there

Track 7 Father worked at Liberty Bell as compressor man for 5 years. Wasn't a miner, but he was going to find the gold. He knew the machinery. He walked that hill. All the way up to Liberty Bell, every day. Early in the morning.

Track 8 Moved across the river. That almost broke our home. Break in tape starts again. Started school when she was four years old in Mich. Had to wait till she was six.

Track 9 School. In the old school, in the snow sheds. Thinks the teacher was Kennedy. Forth grade teacher was Fleckenstein. Miss VanAtta Attended all years at school in Telluride

Track 10 Father worked then at the mill. After the split up in the home.

Track 11 Charles Porter worked in the lab for Madame Curie, maybe a favorite of hers. She learned how she contracted consumption. He was the one she chose to come over here and work mine, below Nucla. He and father got acquainted here. Porter had consumption and Curie heard that the air out here would help. He had a girlfriend, a German girl. Alma Porter found out that they were going to send him here, so they got married in Germany so she could come. The agent they hired bought property and she lived in the cabin. Separate cabins on the same property on account of the consumption. Cabin located by the cemetery, right up the road, by the Fullerton property. House was so clean. Then he built a lean to for his wood supply and he was getting better or feeling better. We lived just two blocks down the street and I was nosy and into to everything. Then Porter got my father to help him. They were supposed to get a bonus at the end of the year. They got a railroad car, Porter and Father.

Track 12 In the mean time, Alma got pregnant one way or the other. She was so amazing. Someone perfect, I thought. Doesn't remember the year. Father stayed there and worked all summer to get the car load. The agent, who got the property, was a miner who goes in and stayed until the oar is out. They stake the claim. This agent took tools and everything for them. They never thought when they started to work the

mine that they would need dynamite. They couldn't buy it being from out of the county. Well my father stood for it and that just about broke up the family

Track 13 – Ore was supposed to Germany, it didn't go. War started and father never got the bonus. 1914. Still in house by hospital. Mother wasn't happy with the lack of money.

Track 14 Talks about the folks living on the other side of river.

Speaks of starting to school at age 4 in Michigan. Talks about different teachers. Father moved from Liberty Bell to mill to work.

Tells of father working for Madam Curie in Uravan with Ms. Curie's lab assistant, Charles Porter. Recalls story of Porters life and his wife and the location of their house by cemetery. Ruby's father and Porter had contracted to load railroad car with carnotite to ship to Madam Curie for her experiments in France.

Track 14 working with Porter. And not getting the bonus.

Track 15 Father moved to Montrose and lived there 1 year. Rented a house from the Brown Family. Attended school in Montrose. Mother wouldn't come back. After Daddy bought a house then moved to the settlement across the river in Telluride.

Track 16 regular little town across the river. **Good quote about town** Little community. Ellis Mrs. Nickelson. Edwin. Old couple, Mr. Williamson, Ruby didn't know they had never been married was so shocked. Tells story of how girl was supposed to work for a lawyer, but ended up being a piano player at the Pick and Gad. Mrs. Rock lived there. Viola Woricks. The Narins. The Whites, Mrs. White was French and never did her dishes. The Merrins came in the covered wagon.

Track 17 The Ellis' came from Missouri and she was a Portafield. Pearl Thompson, their daughter, had Ruby stay during the summer to help take care of her boys. Thompson family that lived in Ophir at Ranger Station.

Track 18 The Narins. She was a good cook. And the end of the story about house across the river family came back together. Father was very loved by the children.

Track 19 Man who ran the express line. Lou Longs brother lived across the river, married a girl from the line, Annie, and adopted two children a boy and a girl, from girls on the line. Recalls and names several families that lived across the river. "Right on pacific ave. was the straight with the line, the red light district." **Good quote about the line girls and the red light.** Talks about bridges. The lady next door did laundry for the girls on the line.

Track 20 Medicine was so bad we kids, made a graveyard. Dead Chickens. We picked mushrooms off the ash piles years later.

Track 21 Father fixed house up for us. We all had outhouse and cisterns. Daddy was on council and he had them put in city water across the river for everybody. We all had electric light. Water was filled from underground.

Track 22 Cups on the chain. Big white house. Was quite a tomboy and babysitter. Ruby would ride burros, and get in trouble. The Reese Twins, Elmeda's brothers. They taught me a lot. They weren't bad things then. Describes childhood friends and activities. After he got the water across the river she was sure proud

of her dad. Cabin on Columbia or Colorado. Tells story of two men who were very nice and dressed up for church. Always gave a glass a milk and a cookie. Always told them about her beautiful mother. One day one of the men gave mom a bouquet of flowers, two tin horn gamblers. Thought the outfits were for church, was just for gambling. Never went to work till noon. Mom offers tea to man, no idea they were just gamblers. Buck Deal gambler or worked as an ice man, pulled smart tricks on people. Peach orchard on Lizard Head, joke. Children really liked Buck. Speaks of going to school with George Rock, and talks of his mother, who was a Madame.

Track 23 Rock who owned cribs. George got a good teasing. Rocks lived by Browns until they Rocks moved to main street. Shows pictures and names her different friends.

Track 24 loud crackling and distortion. More photos and stories that aren't really finished. Tells story of hiking with friend and her brother who was blind. Take him up to a sunny place and sit him under the quakies. Hike up to the old mill, that is now Bear Creek. More photo talk. Viola Morris. Many more names. Flora Schaffer, Rhoda Bell, Syson.

Track 25 talks about Mr. Narrin. Father whose wife died when little girl was born, was wild child. Tells the sad story of girl raised by father in cabin at Smuggler Road. Girl cooked for him. Doesn't recall name. She didn't want to go to school. She got pneumonia and died. When the girl died, the ladies of the town would not let them bury her in cemetery. Didn't want her buried next to Mrs. Uppintons lot. Man who took care of cemetery took her up to where the stream was so she was buried outside of the fence. It was beautiful. Used to hike up to the grave. When the fence went up to keep the cows out she was outside.

Track 26 Relates story of growing up and attending school. 6<sup>th</sup> grade Flipina Edwards, was a wonderful teacher and friend. Memories of Dr. Egness hospital in the brick house, later owned by Wagners. Was built by Neil Davis. After the hospital it was for roomers and the teachers stayed there and some stayed at the Johnston rooming house.

Track 27 Speaks of the scarlet fever epidemic. Lived in the regular part of town. Quarantined for six week. Nailed doors across front room and sign on door, and doctor wore a mask. Names several different doctors in town and where they lived.

Track 28 Flunked sixth grade. Ruby started working at the Carbinero mine above Ophir when she was in the 10th grade. Cook up there needed a hand with dishes and making cakes. Rode to Ophir on the train, and then on up to mine on a horse. Mother made me dark dresses with ricka rack on them, so pretty. Folks are buried in Telluride. Story of waiting in kitchen, great big table with old cloth, we set 35 places at that table.

Track 29 Scope or Scoop ran the wagon from the mine to the Ophir loop with ore. Only spring was under seat. Man got friendly and ride and I had been warned, but it was a tough ride. Many memories and stories of her years working there. End of story from 28. Little Joe took care of cows and mules. Everyone brought all their dinner buckets in so they could see me. Met Walter. Everybody danced to two brothers who played music. Dressed up two boy as girls so we could squared dance. I worked afternoons. Somebody had left a box a crayons and I made a sign that said Home Sweet Home with flowers and everything. Everybody admired it. Cash Jones was sweet on me came out and was mad cause I didn't put his name on it. So I added him but he was mad. He tore it right off the wall and soon everyone was fighting. I cried and ran out, scared to death. 18 off those boys drew their checks that night. They were just the 10 day Johnnies so it didn't much matter Mr. Minosky said don't worry about it, just keep working.

Track 1 Started on getting stuck on Walter. Ray Ross who drove the mule train was sweet on Ruby. Little Joe went to Ophir to get water, didn't put his boots on he puts his oxfords and the horse got scared, his shoes caught and that horse dragged him to death. Recalls story of friendship of Little Joe and Walter who were cowhands from ranch for many years. Walter was so sad because Little Joe and he rode together for years. He quit school in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, but he was a reader. Took an electrical course. She and Walter were married when she was 18 and he was 21 and moved to Silverton.

Track 2 Moved to California after Walters's breakdown. Doc. Said move. Kids were all married when we moved. Oldest son still lives in the house in Silverton and raised his family there. His health is gone too. He worked at the Gold king mine for standard metals

Track 3 Driving in California and highways.

Track 4 Talks about the flood in 1914, all the damage and how it was cleaned up. Alta describes flood of 1968. Men from boarding house tried to fix flood to go to the river. Some of the people got mad that they moved the water down that street. In front of where Mrs. Reed lived. Hit all the Grocery Store. The Sheridan Hotel, good quote about flood in hotel. Person was killed on Galena, above the recreation hall. Her little dog ran out the back and she went out to get the dog and the flood took her and the door. The flood also took Mr., Erickson right on the street that the museum is on. Kids found him in the back yard. Started up Cornet Creek. A big house tipped over and leaned against the tree. A Vassar graduate was the first woman to smoke publicly in Telluride and she created quite a stir.

Track 5 Story of two girls who became lawyers. Flood came in the middle of the day. People carried stuff on their backs. The second on was also in the middle of the day. Alta talks about what it sounded like and how it happened. Went right by Minnie Purefields house

Track 6 Ruby speaks of growing up in town and the activities as a young girl, picking wild strawberries and lady slippers or orchids on the south hillside. Alta tried to move them and transplant them. Loves the flowers. Edwin and Ruby went over near Bear Creek to get strawberries. There was a man there, leaning against a wall. He had a gun and we ran up the hill and we sat on those cliffs and watched him. He was dead, three bullets right through the heart. He shot himself. He was a miner and had TB. We sat there for a long time. Here came the postmaster and his wife, Denison and the banker. They grabbed their woman and turned them around, then found out he was dead. That's when we down to see what was up. Relates many stories from childhood. Describes the three picnic grounds.

Track 7 Talks about the July 4th celebrations. Alta talks about ball park and where they played. Sheepsman's day was a big day in Silverton, Labor Day was Rico. 4<sup>th</sup> of July was Telluride. In the morning they did the dynamite.

Track 8 She mentions winning 3 medals at school track meets. Points were added up and she got one first place. They used to have buggy races. Ruby could run. I jumped only 36 inches, with those bloomers, but I could run. I had to run once for a boy in a relay race, came in second. Played on the basketball team. Speaks of different teachers she had in school, and her desire to use the gym equipment. Ruby would sneak in and play on the Roman rings. Only boys were allowed to use it.

Track 9 Domestic science was the name for Home Ec. Talks about different teachers and what they were like. Teachers who flirted with her, how she handled it. Different memories of all her years.

Track 10 Mortician in Silverton. Little fella. People that had money bought expensive gold handles for caskets and he would take them off after the funeral, then he would resale them. Stories about taking gold out of teeth before they get buried.

Andy Mar  
Goldsworthy  
Leino

Kennedy  
Fleckenstien  
VanAtta  
Madam Curie  
Charles Porter

Lou Long  
Mrs. Rock  
Williamson  
Rogers  
Ellis Nicholson

George Rock  
Albert Ress Buck Deal  
Delucia

Narin  
Mr. Ellis

Mrs. Fleckenstien  
Phillapine Lorig  
Wagner  
Levenitz  
Dr. Klautz7DR. Tidd

Bernoscy  
Cash Jones  
Ray Ress

Little Joe

Dr. Taylor  
E.B.Adam  
Erickson  
Mrs. Adams  
Edwin  
Nickelson  
Naron  
Minnie &  
Mary Hastings