

Laura Kracaw MU39 - *Today*
Interviewed by Sandra Johnson 1975
SIDE A

00-55 Date of birth in Telluride 1898. Speaks of being just 11 years too late to help plate the town. Names parents, John Mason Ruggless and mother's name Stela Krab and gives date and place of their marriage. History of father's journey to Colorado, through Kansas. Speaks of his experiences working for the railroad. His brother Louis was with him. They joined the bridge gang and worked through the Royal Gorge. Stories of that time. Later learned the carpenter trade as an apprentice. Speaks of parent's arrival in Telluride in 1895 via Ouray and Durango. Speaks of the panic of 1893 while they lived in Durango and tells of their efforts to live during that time. Later went back to Ouray and tells of mother's trip from Durango to Ouray by stagecoach.

55-81 Father's ability to read blue prints while working at the mine. One of the first places parents lived was with Mrs. Powell at the Telluride House. Mrs. Blackwell ran a store at Newmire. Story of having dinner with Blackwells at Newmire and their trip home in a blizzard. Speaks of her birthday.

81-106 Description of father's shop. History of father's obtaining the land for the shop on Willow Street and speaks of his partnership with McKee. Tells story of employee John Diehl. Describes moving Diehl's house with poles and horses. Speaks in detail of her father's carpenter shop. She has plans father drafted for the addition to the school building. She many hours in shop watching her father work. Father built quite a few of the houses in town. Describes her father's work and how he framed the windows and doors.

106- Riding around the town and tries to identify different houses and locations. Speaks of when the Sheridan Hotel burned and the Times building burned and one girl lost her life. Gene McCowen was seriously burned. Mentions the Dahl House run by a Finnish lady. George Rock owned the brick house they lived in on South Oak Street. Stories of living there. Describes the house. Speaks of the mule trains and the ore wagons that went by the house. Talks about the militia that was stationed in the house on South Oak during the miner's strike in 1902 or 03. It was called the Shellar House. Father was on patrol duty during that time. They moved to different house where they only lived for a month. Story of William P. March the custodian at the high school. Mentions other people that lived in various houses in town. Father did part of the inside finishing on the Methodist Church.

SIDE B

00-168 Laura and Sandra still in car driving around town identifying houses and locations. Speaks of the school house addition at a cost of \$17,000. Stories of people that lived in the houses. Tells about crossing Cornet Creek on tin cans. Speaks of tennis courts. Describes the minister at church. Speaks of the museum when it was the hospital.

Continued tour of the houses and stories of occupants. Speaks of trips to Norwood and to the area of the old flume above the river.

168-219 More stories of her father's shop. Memories of the times she spent there. Speaks of the black smith shop and describes the process of shoeing the horses. Father kept his horse in a small stable across from the doors of the carpenter shop. Mentions Second Hand Adams who kept his new Studebaker in that stable. Describes first automobile ride.

219-231 Describes the prospectors passing the shop as they led their burros by. Mentions two women prospectors named Dead Eye and Feather Legs. Describes their clothing.

231-291 A visit to the Lone Tree Cemetery by Capt. Fred McQueen and Laura Kracaw. Names various graves they located. Mentions the beautiful setting of the cemetery. Speaks of the shape some of the head stones are in.

291 General conversation among group of people. Very noisy.

KEYWORDS SIDE A

55-81 Newmire

106-411 Elk'

PEOPLE SIDE A

00-55 John Ruggless, Stela Crab

55- 81 Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Blackwell

81-106 W.E. McKee, John H. Adams, John Diehl

196-411 Kelly, Elmer Ranta, Wheeler, Jim Brown Denisons, Gene McGown, George Rock. Lavendar Mule Barns

PEOPLE SIDE B

00-168 E. H. Kracaw, W.E. Wheller,

168-219 Second Hand Adams

219-231 Dead Eye, Feather Legs

231-291 Fred McQueen, San Miguel Browns