

John Partenan OH #96
Interviewed and transcribed by Davine Pera

SIDE A

00-05 History of parents and how they arrived in Telluride.

10-19 School days in Telluride and location of houses he lived in during his time here.

19-34 Speaks of working in Smuggler and Pennsylvania as a mucker and odd jobs at the mill for one summer, then attending school at Colorado School of Mines and the University of Arizona

34-62 Father was superintendent at Liberty Bell and it closed down so went to be the mine superintendent at Black Bear Mine. Black Bear closed and he became one of the leases. Worked there on a clean up lease until snow slide wiped them out.

62-121 After the depression father opened up an assay office and became a deputy mineral land surveyor. Talks about his summers helping his father survey the upper basins. Had to backpack in to the areas. Describes his experiences.

121-154 Describes the assay office and tells how the process worked.

154-211 Mentions Father's social membership in various organization Talks about his activities as a boy and speaks of the colleges he attended. Marriage and first few jobs at mines. He decided to join the army, which started his military career, which lasted through World War 11.

211-228 Describes his career in the military service and different places he was posted. He was transferred to the photo mapping business. Traveled to China and speaks of his experiences there. Mentions different medals he earned. Bronze Star medal given to him for saving comrades life. Sent to Chili to work on photo mapping of Chile, but was too hard on the family. Was relieved from active duty in 1946.

228-259 He went back to Chili and describes work he did there working for a division of the Anaconda Mining Co. Resigned after 18 months and went to Columbia to look at gold property for a friend's father.

259-288 Talks about the First National Bank closing. His family lost their money at that time. Bank of Telluride swindle by C.D. Waggoner. Thought that Mr. Waggoner was trying to help the people of Telluride to get their money back.

288-334 Talks about his primary school years. Was a champion speller and competed in meets in Montrose. Started school in the first grade and went through all 12 grades in the brick school building. Mentions many of his memories and experiences during the school years. Graduated with a class of 7 in 1935.

334-446 President Roosevelt raised the price of gold from \$16 to \$32 an ounce, so the mines began to open again. Speaks of the Black Bear Mine and the method of flotation to process the ore. Describes the process of transporting the ore on the trams from Black Bear to Pandora. Father walked up and skied down from the mine. John rode horses up to the mine. Speaks of hiking to the top of the ridge above Ptarmigan Lake to see the sun rise when he was 10 years old.

446-468 Talks about school activities he participated in. Speaks of Saturday night saunas.

468-568 was a political refugee from Finland. While a student at the University of Helsinki, he burned the Russian Imperial flag at a rally. So the Russian police were after him. Speaks of how his father got him out of the country by way of Sweden. Father was a very important banker in Finland and had money invested in the Superior Mining Co. Speaks of father's age when he arrived in the United States. Parents didn't speak a lot of Finnish at home. Mother had been a schoolteacher in Michigan. Describes how the Finns took their names from the farms they worked on. Father changed name when he came to United States.

568-588 More childhood memories, swimming in beaver ponds at Boomerang road. Names childhood friends.

SIDE B

00-43 Mentions different classes he took in high school. Speaks of teachers he had. Traveled to different towns on the debate teams. Describes trips in Model A of teacher, Bill Nardin. Loved English and wrote poetry.

43-92 Had a part time job firing the furnace for the Masons so did not have time for a lot of extra activities. Use to ice skate, coast, and cross-country ski. Attended dances at recreation hall and Swede-Finn Hall. Speaks of celebrating Christmas. Talks about the difference between the Finns and the Swede-Finns. Speaks of his Finnish heritage.

92-124 Speaks of the Space Pioneer Medal that was presented to him in August, 1985 from President Ronald Reagan. Tells of his work that earned him the medal.

124-149 Speaks of his awe and love of the mountains and the feelings he still has for Telluride. Describes "The Dirty Dungeon" and "Billy Creek Cave". Talks of swimming in the beaver ponds.

149-234 Talks about the depression. His father started the Fox Farm during the depression. Father tried to repay all the people who had invested in the Fox Farm after it closed and his family lost their house on Oak Street. Speaks of the caretaker at the Fox Farm and how he use to help him when he was a young boy. The Fox Farm was started in 1927. Describes their life after they lost the farm. Speaks of his mother's death and his father's work at that time. John could not get leave to go to the funeral.

234-283 Many memories of the prohibition. Recites stories from that time. Stories of the Red Light District. Describes Tom McMahn's icehouse and what it was used for. Kids use to go down and raft on his ponds. Tommy was his playmate. Describes Tom McMahn. Speaks of Pilcher's butcher house. Describes collecting the blood from the butcher house and giving it to the caretaker at the Fox Farm to make into bread to feed the fox at the farm. Describes the process of curing the skins from the fox before shipping them to fur house in St. Louie.

283-381 Talks of his memories of the steam trains, their schedule in and out of town. Always loved to watch the trains come into the town. Rode the Galloping Goose to Montrose. Speaks of picnics at the Bear Creek Park or at San Miguel. His Finnish friends always spoke English. Speaks of the Telluride Reunion.

381-498 Talks about Mr. Visintine and Arvo Matis. Speaks of the pest house. Memories of fishing at Trout Lake. Talks about when the Fish and Game stocked the river. He caught fish off the bridge at Cornet Creek. Talks about how the town has changed.

498-521 Shares some of the things he intends to put into his memoirs.

KEYWORDS FOR THIS TRANSCRIPT

SIDE A
(228-259)
Anaconda Mine

(288-334)
Veta Mines
Smuggler
Black Bear
Pandora

SIDE B
(149-234)
Depression
Fox Farm

(283-381)
Galloping Goose
Railroads
Bear Creek Park
San Miguel
Trout Lake
Pest House

PEOPLE

Side A
(259-288)
C.D. Waggoner

(288-334)
Mrs. Stubbs
Pakka
Billy Pilcher

(334-446)
Harry Johnson
Peterson
Stubbs

(446-468)
H. Elscamp
Elmer Ranta

Chick Carriere
Billy Pilcher

(568-585)
Gene Pilcher
Albert Kullum
Phillip Morris

Harry Elscamp

SIDE B
(43-92)
Erickson

(149-234)
Pakka
Billie Pilcher
L. Beard
Tom McMahon

Thomas William

(283-381)
Visintine
Arvo Matis
John Cordis