

Hot Springs of Ouray County, Living History S. Tape Catalogue Card

Phone		Tape #	OH 88
Address	Narrator: Dorwin Gregory	Location	OH File
Date		Length	80 min.
Place	Author: Doris Gregory	Sides	
Interviewer		Recorder	
Phone		Sep Mike	

Time	Names & Places	Subjects covered
00-36		History of hot springs baths through the centuries. Idea of hot springs plunge originated in 1882.
36-137	Chief Ouray, Meeker, McKinsey	History of Orvis Springs south of Ridgway on Highway 550. The Ute Indians bathed in Orvis Springs, believing them to be sacred with healing powers. In 1868 the treaty with the Utes was broken as the miners and settlers moved into the Uncompahgre Valley which belonged to the Ute Indian tribe. In 1873, the property was given to the Indians, including 4 miles of sacred ground in the valley where the hot springs were located. In spite of the treaties, the settlers continued to move in. In September 1879, the Meeker Massacre occurred. History of the Massacre. The fate of the Indians were doomed. In 1881, the Utes were moved to Utah. Article read from newspaper about it.
137-220	L.Orvis, Walter McWilliams, Ed Kresher	Lewis Orvis arrived in the valey in 1887 and n 1882 he acquired the hot springs and 160 acres. He was a rancher and dairyman. Description of his ranch. In June 1916, his barn burned to the ground. Several men from Ridgway kept the fire from spreading to his house. He died in 1929 and his son took over the hot springs and ranch. He built a swimming pool where the barn had stood. Description of operation of hot springs as a resort. In 1925 a lake for fishing was built and a club house was erected in 1929. Description of the club house. Social events were held there. He sold the land and hot springs in 1933 to Walter Mc Williams who sold it five years later to Ed Kresher. After Mr. Kresher died, the lodge building and swimming pool fell into disrepair. In 1961, fire destroyed the remains of the buildings and sides of the pool.
220-278	Louise & Paul Witt, Dr. J. Presone, J. Kerbel	In 1972, the Lopo Hydro Therapy Treatment Center opened. It was housed at the site of the Orvis Hot Springs. This was the first time the springs were used for healing since the Utes left the area. It changed hands in 1980 and again in 1986. The lodge and spa area were remodeled by Jeff Kerbel and wife. Description of spas and lodge in 1992. They also set up a camping area west of the lodge.
278-313		There are many hot springs in Ouray. Gives directions to Box Canyon Falls and Park located in the south west corner of Ouray. Falls in the canyon described. Canyon Creek flows into Uncompahgre River. Hot water from the Canyon was piped to the pool when it was built in 1926. In 1970, skinny dipping was popular in the hot water in the canyon. It is no longer allowed.
313-407	R. Koger, Brester, C. Mills, Kent	There are two lodges built on the south side of the street next to the canyon. History of sanitarium built by the Kogers in 1915. Vapor baths in caves were constructed along with a two story house where the patients stayed. Many people came for the treatments. Story of one lady who was cured. Mr. Koger died at the age of 80. His wife repainted houses and fences and elarged the parking area. She

purchased more land which included Wylar Park-- a large hot springs. The Koger Sanitarium was sold in 1929 to C.W. Kent. He changed the name and hired managers to run it, along with building some cabins and new bath house. In the next several years, the name was changed several times. The I M's (St. Germain Foundation) purchased the property and ran it as a motel, before they sold it. Today it is owned by the Twin Peaks and the Box Canyon Motels. Describes the views from the motels during the 4 seasons. Description of Box Canyon Lodge and the Twin Peaks Motels.

407-420

Ouray Hot Springs and Fitness Park is Ouray's main tourist attraction. Views described from pool and park. Description of the pool, which is kept open year round.

SIDE B
00-53

Description of pool and area continued. Minerals are named that are in the hot springs water that fill the pool. Description of activities in the fitness center. Play ground and picnic talbes and tennis court complete park.

53-102

Carey, Weston,
Washington

History of park and pool. A brick yard was located where the pool is today. Clay for the bricks were dug out. The park was first known as "The Fish Ponds" and later as Radium Springs Park. Story of the fish ponds. Story of the 2 alligators that were kept in a pond near the fish ponds for 10 years.

102-145

Story of building the swimming pool. Hot water was piped from the hot springs in Box Canyon through a tunnel. History of volunteer work and the financing of the pool. In 1988, 2 wells were drilled in the park near the pool and hot water was tapped after 90 feet. At present time the water is supplied by the wells and Box Canyon Springs.

A.G.Dunbar,
Bucanon, Dr. Bates,
M.Rice

History of the Weisboden Hot Springs and Spa and Lodging. It was the fist hot springs in Ouray to be used commercially, and discovered by A.G. Dunbar in 1882. History of plunge bath owned by Dunbar. He lost all the property in the depression in 1893. History of the establishment through the years. The mines used the tubs when they came down off the mountain for a weekend in town. The name was later changed from Radium Springs to a Sanitarium. Dr. Bates bought the property and remodeled it into vapor caves, mud rooms and sweat baths. Article read from newspaper. Description of the Bates Hospital and Sanitarium. He ran it for 29 years. In 1971, it was purchased and named the Weisboden Lodge and Baths. Facility as it is run today is described.

145-309

Conclusion of hot springs history.

309-313

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