

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 16      Date: 7/12/90      Condition:      Holdings:  
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Initials: DP

Interviewee: Wigglesworth, Thomas

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A

00-149 Birthdate and history of family Grandfather Wigglesworth sent to Durango to build railroad for D&RG in 1890. Brought his family here from Nashville over part of constructed railroad and finished last of journey on a sled. Thomas's father worked at Red Mountain as switching operator of the Power Company. The family rode to the mine on horseback in the winter. He also worked at Vance Junction at Ilium and then at the Camp Bird Mine above Ouray. Thomas was counted in the census at the Camp Bird in 1920. He attended 2 years of school there in a one-room school. They moved to Telluride in 1913.

149- 187 Fathers first job in Telluride was an electrician at the Liberty Bell Mine. They use burros or mules in the mine at that time to pull cars loaded with ore. He worked 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week. He transferred from the mine to the mill and rented a house behind the Miner's Union, later bought small house behind school next to the hill. Thomas attended grades 3 & 4 in Telluride. The moved back to Tomboy where he attended school for a couple of years, then later back to Telluride when his brother started high school. Thomas remembers the influenza epidemic. They moved to California for a year and then back to Telluride in the winter of 1920.

187-363 His brother worked at the Tomboy as a dishwasher and Thomas worked as bus boy at the Sheridan Hotel at the age of 14. They moved to Nevada in 1921. He attended 11<sup>th</sup> grade in California and college in Reno, Nevada. Gives history of his many years of working for Civil Service in Washington. Employment years.

363-405 He divorced his first wife in 1958 and remarried in 1960. Lots of travelling the last 20 years. Speaks of brother working in different places. His father died in Farmingotn and his brother died in 1982.

405-498 Names different teachers in school in Telluride. Tells about discipline in school. Memories of school years. A lot of white Russians who were older attended school here when families migrated to the United States after the revolution. Tom's brother taught chemistry class in Telluride when he was a senior, as they did not have a chemistry teacher at that time.

498-556 Describes the school strike the students organized during his high school years in the winter of 1920-1921.

Side B

04-54 Continues the story of the school strike. C.D. Waggoner was chairman of school board at that time.

54-160 Talks of his trip back to Telluride in 1978, when he hiked to Tomboy. In 1981 he returned to Telluride and tells of his visit. Recites different trips back to Telluride and his attempts to hike to Ouray over Imogene Pass.

160-233 Speaks of his life now after his retirement.

Description: sound cassette (72 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Birthdates and early history

Father's work at Liberty Bell & early school years

School years in California and Nevada

History of wives and parents deaths

School memories

School strike by students

Side B:

Students school strike continued

Trips back to Telluride

Life after retirement