

Interview by School Children 1980

OH 101

Albina Clemente

Albina Clemente was born in Tyrol, Austria in 1893. Has lived in Telluride 67 years. She also lived at the Tomboy Mine and Ophir.

Story of coming to Telluride. She cooked at the boarding house at the mine and ran the San Juan Hotel for years.

She was 5 years old when father died and 13 when her mother died.

Her daughter, Marina, was born at the Tomboy Mine. They moved when she was 3 years old to the San Juan Hotel in Telluride. Marina attended kindergarten in the basement of the church.

She had a garden and raised vegetables. She cooked on wood kitchen range and still uses it to cook her meals. She had an icebox and Tom McMahn delivered ice for it. She washed clothes on washboard in tub.

She cooked at the Roma Café for 15 years. She baked bread for the San Juan Hotel and the grocery stores. Stories of cooking breakfast at the Roma.

The train came in twice a day. Most transportation was by horse and wagon. She rode a horse from Tomboy Mine to town and back. Most supplies were carried up by the tram. Sleighs and sleds were used in winter.

Daughter rode train when she went to Nursing School in Denver. Mail came into town on the train. She had a phone at the mine. Telegraph station in town, which was later, a photo shop. There were two newspapers in town.

Social life consisted of dances. Most were held at Finn Hall and the Swede-Finn Hall.

When she lived in Ophir, she watched the miners ski down the hill from the mine.

Speaks of Fire Dept. and the bell that was used for the alarm.

Talks about the gunfight at the Tomboy in 1919 and mentioned several the gunfights at the Silver Bell Saloon.

The first car she saw was at Cushman Lake where they use to have picnics.

Several clothing stores in Telluride, but she made her own dresses and aprons.

Speaks of the miners working at the Silver Bell Mine, the Carbinero Mine and in Ophir.

There were 2000 people in area and 1000 were miners.

Tells story of a small boy dying. There were two hospitals, 2 doctors and Dr. Taylor was the dentist.

School—daughter played on the basketball team and traveled to other towns.

She speaks of Telluride's future.

Mentions how Telluride was named.