

Chester Lee MU40
Interviewed by Sandra Johnson May 1975

SIDE A

00-12 Chester Lee lived in Telluride from 1907 until 1969. He describes Telluride in the early days. Explains why the town was called "The Town Without A Belly Ache". Describes the town. At one time Telluride was supposed to have my bath tubs, more telephones, more pianos, and it was the best lighted little city of it's size anywhere. Talks about the 32 bars in town.

12-21 Speaks of his years of employment. Worked for the Liberty Bell Mining Company for 8 years on the aerial tramway. Describes the tramway and the work he did on it.

21-34 Describes the boarding house at Liberty Bell that was built in 1910. The Company had a contract with Kracow Grocery to buy food by the car lot.

34-43 He worked for the City of Telluride for some time after leaving the Liberty Bell. Was water commissioner for several years and deputy marshal and deputy sheriff. Speaks of Telluride being a part of Ouray County in the early days. Talks of changing the name from Columbia to Telluride. Had a city government for several years.

43-91 Speaks of the Trout Lake Flood. He and friend rode to Placerville on horseback the day after the flood. Describes the Cornet Creek Flood in 1914. He and his wife were out fishing at the time, but when they arrived in Placerville, they were told that Telluride had been washed away. They rode on to Telluride in a wagon with two horses and upon arriving discovered that their house was not damaged. Describes how the town was cleaned up by using a fire hose. Washed the silver ware right off the tables at the Sheridan Hotel dining room.

91- Speaks of the ""talkies"" (movies) at the Sheridan Opera House. Admission was 10 and 15 cents. Mentions several old timers that he knew in Telluride. Tells story of Mr. Denison's trip across Last Dollar Mountain with mule team into Telluride. Speaks of his good friend Mr. Heron in Norwood. Mentions W.H. Nelson was one of the men that blazed the trail for the first wagon road up Norwood Hill. Tells story of driving a school bus down Norwood Hill when he had trouble with the bus. End of interview.

Keywords
Side A

00-12 Liberty Bell Mining Company, Kracow Grocery

43-91 Trout Lake Flood, Cornet Creek Flood, Sheridan Hotel

91-124 Sheridan Opera House, Last Dollar Mountain, Norwood Hill

People
Side A

91-24 L. G. Denison, Alta Cassietto, Mr. Heron, W.H. Nelson