

Oral Histories

Number: OH 32/OH 33 Date: 6/25/90

Condition:
Good

Holdings:
WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: McKnight, Carly

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Tape 1-Side A

00-51 History of parents birthplace and how they arrived in Telluride. Father arrived in 1912 in May—snowed 8 inches on July 4th. Moved to Washington and later back to Telluride. His mother's father was the head bookkeeper at the Tomboy Mine. Mother graduated from High School in Telluride, attended Business College in Kansas and returned to Telluride to work at the courthouse. Parents were married in 1915. His parents went into partnership with Emmett Hampton and started a dairy ranch in 1915. Later, father bought Emmett out and bought property on Coal Creek, then built a dairy ranch at Alder Creek.

51-94 Talks of some of the reasons the dairy cows died. Describes the early milking machine father used. Carlie still has sign-up cards his father used when he signed up for electric power in 1916 with Western Colorado.

94-160 His father traded his cows to Hoffman in Olathe for store equipment and opened a store on Main St. in Telluride later moved the store to a location on the highway two miles from town. After selling the store they moved to Grand Junction, then back to Telluride where he hauled timber for the Alta Mine for the summer in 1943. Speaks of different places they ran cows for pasture in summer. Sold out in 1946 to Hughes. Milford Lein bought the place after that. McKnights lost the dairy in Telluride.

160-230 Names various dairies and their locations in the area. Describes how Skeins delivered milk to miners in the Alta Mine area on packhorses. Names various dairy owners and their employees. Most of the dairies went out of business before World War 11. Adams had a ranch on Lawson Hill and the boys delivered milk on their way to school in the mornings.

230-279 milk was delivered to the miners on the trams. Describes tram from Liberty Bell Village to the mines. Father bought first commercial horse wagon in 1926. They lived in Montrose in 1931 and '32. Speaks of hearing the news about start of World War 11.

279-388 Describes the cabin Lon Remine owned above them. Claus Walburg raised racehorses. Speaks of the first airplane to land in Telluride in 1912 on the racetrack. Indians brought their horses into Telluride to race. Speaks of different people that live at San Miguel. Speaks of Ed Visine's ranch across the road from their place.

388-478 His wife Ida's parents lived at Matterhorn after arriving here from Italy then moved to Ophir. Ida's father worked at the Carbinero Mine. Her father spent five years in a concentration camp in Russia after World War 1, returned to Italy and immigrated to the United States through Canada. Memories of Ida's parent's home in Ophir.

478-533 Describes the house he lived in as a child and talks about how cold it was. Ida's parents bought large brick house on Main St. in 1945. Speaks of his father-in-law and his life as a miner.

533-618 Describes how the dairy process works. Tells of the slaughterhouse used to butcher meat or the miners.

Side B

10-131 Continues description of processing milk and how they delivered it. Speaks of using ration cards for gas during the war in order to deliver milk door to door. Talks about the haying process and describes machinery they used.

131-174 Speaks of mother-in-law's life in Italy. His mother worked very hard.

174-218 Recites story about his uncle delivering milk to the Red Light District.

218-250 Describes the school bus that he rode to school.

250-618 Mentions several town characters. Describes their lives in Telluride. Tells story of Snodgrass and talks about Tom McMahn. Speaks of the Korean War. Tells story of Tom Keith who was a blacksmith. Speaks of the Gabardis.

Tape 2 Side A

0-73 Telluride had many different nationalities in town. Pullmans had a boot repair shop. Speaks of different occupations. Mentions the Backman brothers.

73-102 Speaks of the Ajax and the Liberty Bell snow slides.

102-231 Mentions various characters he remembers. Speaks of different people that lived in Telluride that he remembers; Alfred Boyer, Nan Leino, Mrs. Pengrazzi, Dee Collins and Litha Proper. Tells several different stories about life on the mesas.

231-335 Stories about the settlement at Vanadium. Whitely had the store in Placerville and Stockton Smith had the store at Fall Creek. Describes shipping cream on the train. Memories of the Vandevereers that lived on Sunshine Mesa. Stories of Mrs. George Wagoner and her husband. Talks about George Shehan making choke cherry wine and his sister's death.

335-404 Carlie talks about his siblings deaths. Mentions the pest house and the many childhood diseases. Speaks of the poor farm.

404-485 More town characters. Speaks of driving his 1928 Model A with chains on.

Description: sound cassettes (Tape 1--90 minutes, tape 2--45 minutes)

Subjects: Tape 1 Side A

Early history

Milking machine

History of dairy life

Lon Remine

Race track

Ophir & Carbinerro

Father-in-law

Slaughter house

Side B

Describes dairy process

Mother-In-Law

Red Light District

Town characters

Tape 2 Side A

Nationalities

Avalanches

Town characters

Placerville, Vanadium and Fall Creek stores

Pest house & Poor House