

Oral Histories

Number: OH 11 Date: Condition: Holdings:
Good WPL

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Wesley Nelson

Interviewer: Chuck Upton

Abstract: Side A

00-10 Music introduction to Voices and Visions program.

10-18 Early history of Wesley's birth and education. Mentions some of his travel on engineering jobs.

18-78 Father moved to Norwood from Virginia after the Civil War. Story of father's experiences in the war. After the war, he drove cattle over Marshall Pass into the Norwood area. Describes father's travel to the West from Virginia. He was cattleman for years, before he became interested in politics.

78-115 Father was County Commissioner for several years, before he was elected to the Legislature for one session. His father started the water system from Nelson reservoir to Norwood. Nelson reservoir was built in the 1880's. Describes the process of constructing water system. Twenty-five miles of ditch built by pick and shovel.

115-130 Father was the engineer and architect of the County court house in Telluride. The original building was constructed out of wood with brick sub-structure, which burned down, so father rebuilt the existing one. He had no formal training as an engineer.

130-158 Wesley's recollections of growing up in Norwood. He is now 90 years old. Speaks of his years as a rancher and later working for the government. Describes a hunting trip when he was a young boy in the Beaver Creek area. Mountain lion followed him for several miles.

158-234 Memories of attending dances when he would ride his horse from Redvale to Norwood in snowstorms. Drove Model T car to pick up girls in Telluride, took them to Norwood, danced all night, took girls home to Telluride in car, and then back to Redvale from Norwood by horseback. He attended many functions at the Telluride school. Speaks of his old house in Norwood and how it has changed now. Memories of old sawmills in Norwood.

234-247 Speaks of the Chinese that came over to help build the ditch from Naturita Creek to take water into the Norwood area.

247-310 His parents influenced him most in his life. He has always followed the Christian spirit. Speaks of his hopes for the future of the United States.

310-335 Names major successes in his life. He worked as engineer on the Hoover Dam and wrote for the Smithsonian Institute. Wrote book that was published about the Hoover Dam. Speaks of his experiences while working there.

335-359 Speaks of the best times of his life. The worst times were the deaths of his parents and his first wife. Speaks of his pride in 2nd wife, Dorothy.

359-375 Music to end Voices and Visions program.

Description: sound cassette (30 minutes)

Subjects: Side A
Early History of Wesley
Early History of his Father
Ranch Life
Social Life
Chinese Labor
Major Successes