

**O'Rourke, Donald/Frances OH91****Tape Catalogue Card**

**Phone**  
**Address** 592 Serenade, Grand Junction, Co. 81435  
**Date** Nov. 11, 1994  
**Place** O'Rourke home  
**Interviewer** Davine Pera  
**Phone** 728-3632

**Tape #** OH91  
**Location** OH File  
**Length** 90 min.  
**Sides** 2  
**Recorder** Marantz  
**Sep Mike** No

<b>Time</b>	<b>Names &amp; Places</b>	<b>Subjects covered</b>
00-80	Murphy, Pritchard	History of Grandparents. Mother's parents ( Frost) lived in Montrose . Father was a freighter of produce to Telluride. Hauled his freight over Hasting's Mesa. Speaks of father's parents, and tells of their wedding in San Francisco. History of his parents. His father was involved in cattle and horses.
80-131		Don's father moved to Liberty Bell where grandfather, Gus Frost was mine superintendent. Father was active in mining al of his life and travelled all over the world. Don stayed with his grandparents in Montrose and attended high School, after going through the 6th grade in Telluride. Father was master mechanic at the Liberty Bell , then worked at various other mines. During the time they lived at the Liberty Bell, Don rode a horse from there to Telluire to school every day.
131-190	J. Weller, Pekkarine	Frances grandfather came from Germany at the age of 18, and changed his name. Her grandmother was from Austria. Frances was born in Hesperus and went to Telluride with her mother, as her parents were divorced. She has 4 sisters. Mother ran a boarding house. Franced attended school in Telluride and graduated in 1925. She loved playing basketball and was on the team that won the district tournament. She worked in the Chicago store for 2 years after graduating from High School. Later she worked at Pekkarine's Store for 7 years during the winters. She quit working when she marrid in 1927.
190-214		The story of their trip to Grand Junction to be married.
214-285	B. Anderson, F. Peterson	In 1914 Don's family moved to Liberty Bell and he rode a horse to school in town. Father moved to small town close to Boulder to work for the VCA. Don had to walk several miles to school, so his parents sent him to Montrose to live with his Grandparents to finish school. Tells about riding horse to school. The school provided a hot lunch program. Mentions that many boys took cooking classes, so they could work as cooks at the various mines. At that time there were schools at Pandora and San Miguel as well as Telluride. Describes horse drawn school buses that were used.
285-393	D. Davidson Slim Parsons, Babe Schuler, Anderson.	Describes working on the motor crew at the Tomboy Mine. Talks about the bunkhouse at the Tomboy and describers the social life there. Girls rode sleighs from town to Tomboy to dances, boys rode horses. They imported orchestras from Montrose. Movies were shown twice a week. Food and groceries were shipped up on the tram. Danielson owned the store at the Tomboy. Many families lived at Tomboy and Smuggler. There were schools at both places. Describes working hours and wages. Tells story of being fired because of taking time off for Christmas. Speaks of the different nationalities that worked there. Tomboy rooming house had bowling alley, pool room, sound proof room for radio and newspapers for every nationalitie.

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393-460 Schuler, Parsons, Tells about the snow slides in later years at the Tomboy. Don left the  
Elskamp, Bartine, B. Tomboy in 1927 and went to work for Babe Schuler at the Telluride  
Nardine, A. Ress Transfer, driving a freight truck. Story of hauling 25 tons sugar from  
Delta to Telluride to be used for moonshine. Losses of bootlegging in  
town. Don would haul bootleg to Rico on the mail truck illegally. Story  
of Federal agent riding with him on one trip. Names a few bootleggers.  
Bootlegging made money for Telluride after the mines shut down.

460-526 B. Schuler, H. Don drove a freight truck twice a week for the Transfer Co. The trains  
Johnson, were almost shut down after the mines shut down. Don went to work at  
Gustafson, Kantas the Black Bear after leaving the Tomboy. Talks of snow slide at the  
Black Bear. Reasons for quitting there. Went back to the Tomboy  
after leaving the Black Bear. He rode the tram to Black Bear in winter to  
work. Describes skiing to town from Black Bear. Story of the Ajax  
snow slide that killed 2 women.

526-590 C.D. Waggoner, Stories of playing poker with C. D. Waggoner, the banker. Played at the  
Parsons, Schuler, Elk's Club which was in the top of the old drug store on corner. Story of  
Oberto, Alquist C.D. Waggoner and his efforts to help Telluride people when bank went  
down. Mentions the gambling saloons in town. Names houses in Red  
Light District. Frances talks of the "red light" ladies and how they  
shopped in the stores. Story of Alquist (Hardware store owner)  
marrying one of the "ladies and Frances tells of playing golf with her at  
the golf course at Society Turn.

590-602 Albin, Dr. Parker, Frances describes social life of card games, parties and lodges in  
Gustafson, Balliger their early married days. Elk's Club, Jane Jefferson Club and  
Commonweal Club were lodges in town.

Side B Don worked in office of Western Colorado Power Co. for 9 years after  
00-113 Gustafson, Nordgren leaving the Transfer. He then ran for County Treasure. and held that  
Mahoney position for 37 years. Tells story of purchasing lot next to his house in  
1941 for \$1. They bought their house from L. Balliger. It use was a  
boarding house when Mahoneys lived there.

113-186 Alex Carriere, Mrs Tells various tales about Buckley Wells. Frances tells of his friend,  
Crawford Hill, Nina Mrs Crawford Hill, who financed many of his mining ventures. He was  
Price, Albin Buckley very generous to the different organizations in town.  
Wells They describe the many dances which were important part of social  
life. Describes the Mules Skinner's Ball, which /Don's mother  
attended.

186-223 Speak of the flu epidemics and the pest house.

223-249 France's mother ran the American House wich was a rooming house.  
Frances tells of cleaning the rooms. Don talks of renting rooms at the  
249-279 Sheridan Anex on weekends when he was a miner.

279-346 Bassich, Elskamp, Names the two theaters in town. Frances tells story of Mr. Basiche's  
Jack Dempsey, murder. Don speaks of Jack Dempsey working at the Smugler at one  
time. Describes the farewell party that the Tomboy Club gave when the  
mine closed. Speaks of the population in 1900.

346-475 H. Reid, H. Wright, J. Don tells of founding the Telluride Jeep Club in the early "50's.  
Ferguson, Duncan, Describes their activities. Tells story of raising money to build the jeep  
road over Imogene Pass and Ophir Pass. Gives history of reasons for  
Hamel, F. Peterson, opening the pass to jeeps. Story of Don's grandfather (Gus Frost)  
Ace Mulvey M.E. riding over Ophir Pass in wagon from Silverton. Don was the first

	Inama	president of the Jeep Club. Stories of jeep trips.
475-423	D.Oberto, J.W. Ames,Pilcher	Don was on the school board for 16 years, County Treasurer for 37 years, was Chief of the Fire Department. He was an officer in Elk's Lodge for 48 years. Speaks of D. Oberto and his wife. Joe Oberto and J.W. Ames owned the Pastime gambling saloon, which was one of the last to close. Describes location of Tremont restaurant and speaks of Pilcher's market.
523-556	Pekkarine	Frances describes the Pekkarine family and their store. Many stories of working there
556-586	Balliger, F. White, Elskamps, Dr. Taylor, R. Weller	History of first cabins at Trout at Lake. Describes how land was leased and later purchased. First cabin was built by Balliger in 1926.
586		Don and Frances left Telluride in 1979, retired and moved to Cortez then later to Grand Junction. Don is 91 and Frances 88.