

Oral Histories

Number: OH 12 Date: June 30, 1989 Condition: Holdings:
Good WPL

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Charles Silva

Interviewer: Ethel Berdelman

Abstract: Side A

00-43 History of parents and why they came to Telluride. Charlie tells story of driving an old Dodge van to Telluride from Pueblo to bring two Shetland ponies to Dr. Tidd.

43-69 After moving to Telluride, he went to work at the Pastimes as a soda jerk. There was a gambling room upstairs. People cashed their paychecks there instead of at the bank. The Pastimes kept a lot of money (gold coins) in sacks next door for this purpose. There was lots of gambling in Telluride at that time.

69-79 Story of Waggoner's fraud on the banks in New York to save the Telluride people when the bank closed.

79-128 He worked for Hicks laying the pipeline at Liberty Bell. When that shut down, he worked at the Gold Run across from the cemetery extracting gold and silver from the creek. Describes the method. Later, he worked in the mill at Telluride Mines. After 2 weeks in the mill, he moved to float operator for 2 weeks and then started in the shop for 50 cents an hour.

128-159 He was sent to Blue Lake many times to repair the pipelines. Describes installing a new line from Blue Lake and drilling the tunnel under the lake. Describes the blast that tore the door off the tunnel and the water rushed down to town.

159-213 Charlie remembers the snow slides that took out the power and phone lines around Blue Lake. He recites many stories of working at Blue Lake.

213-226 He and Paul Studebaker bought the Peterson Garage on assurance of a hauling contract that never materialized. They bought the S&S Bar and Café and later sold it to Bill Pilcher and Gusty Swan.

226- A review of Charlie's life in Telluride. He received a first aid certificate from the Bureau of Mine and later was an instructor. He was a member of the Elks Lodge for 60 years and was a volunteer fireman for 20 years.

Description: cassette tape (25 minutes)

Subjects: Side A
Trip to Telluride
Pastimes Café
C. D. Waggoner
Work history
Blue Lake
FS&S Café
Review of Charlie's life