

DATE January 19, 1990

BIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Museum of Western Colorado Archives
and
Mesa County Oral History Project

Please fill out this survey as completely as possible and insert additional sheets if needed.

FULL NAME FRANCIS LOUIS VELA NICKNAME _____

Address 11 Nimbus Drive, Last Dollar Development Telluride Colorado 81435
St., Apt., Box number City State Zip

Telephone no. 728-4221 Date of Birth August 31, 1905 Location Eckert, Colorado

Father's full name James Vela Date of birth May 11, 1863

Place of birth Crodo, Italy Date of marriage 1890

Place of marriage Crodo, Italy Date of death 1946

Place of death Eckert, Colorado

Mother's full name Meri (Minolo) Vela Date of birth 1863
(include maiden)

Place of birth Crodo, Italy Date of death February 07, 1918

Place of death Eckert, Colorado

Children of this marriage William J. Vela, Delena Porter, James J. Vela, Delcina
Whiting, Francis L. Vela

Other comments Parents homesteaded a hereford cattle ranch upon moving to Eckert, Colorado.
They came to America on their honeymoon and had planned to return to Italy, but never did.

Interviewee's first marriage: Full name of spouse Retta Mae (Horn) Vela

Date of birth Sept. 19, 1905 Place of birth Ochiltree County, Texas

Date and place of this marriage November 11, 1925 at Delta, Colorado

Children of this marriage Jack Duane Vela and Sherry Mae (Vela) Rose

Date and place of death _____

Interviewee's second marriage (if applicable):

Full name of spouse _____

Date and place of birth _____

Children of this marriage _____

Date and place of death _____

Other comments _____

Date and place of arrival in Colorado _____

Reason for coming to Western Colorado _____

Reason for leaving Western Colorado _____

Locations & dates of residency in Western Colorado _____

Early memories & recollections of Western Colorado _____

EDUCATION:

Grammar School Eckert Elementary Eckert, Colorado 8

High School Eckert High Eckert, Colorado 4

College _____

Name	Place	Years
Educational honors		

MILITARY SERVICE:

Enlistment date & place _____ Branch _____

Stations of service _____ Rank attained _____

Date of discharge _____ Decorations _____

Occupations with locations and approx. dates Cattle
Rancher at Eckert, Colo. from 1925-1933

Miner

Political offices held & approx. dates San Miguel County Assessor from 6-15-57 to 1-20-71

Organizations & offices held Life member of Telluride B.P.O.E. Lodge; Telluride Museum Board; San Miguel County Planning Board; Telluride Chamber of Commerce

Most memorable event Purchasing sufficient rail to build a two-mile circle tour of Telluride using the old Galloping Goose for locomotion, with the intention for the old depot to be the starting point and to offer the depot as a museum site, Chamber of Commerce headquarters and civic center. It was a dream unfulfilled. (October 1964)