

Oral Histories

Number: OH 34

Date: 9/10/85

Condition:
Good

Holdings:
WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Ranta, William

Interviewer: Vickie Ranta

Abstract: Side A only

00-81 History of parents arrival in Telluride. Father came here from Finland to stay out of the armed forces. He was offered a job in Montana. His mother came over to stay with sister in Telluride. Father came on to Telluride to work; met mother and they were married here. His father was a carpenter. Father and bill framed the towers for arial tramway from mill at Pandora to Pennsylvania tunnel. Father was the tram boss for Black Bear Mine. Gives the history of a group of Finnish people that bought the Black Bear Mine. Speaks of the Contention Mine that his father owned. Father also worked at Blue Lake on the water system.

81-150 His mother took in washing from the miners and the Poor Farm and different businesses in town. Mentions the routine his mother followed every day of the week. Bill was born in a house on Columbia Street and speaks of other houses he lived in. Speaks of his brothers and sister that died.

150-184 Bill and his mother went to Finland when he was two, and returned when he was 4. Speaks of the time in Finland. Memories of first electric light in his house. Other childhood memories.

184-253 Speaks of the depression years. He earned \$25 a month, which the family lived on. Father had no job so Bill worked as a janitor at the post office. Talks about taking care of younger brother, as mother was so busy.

253-323 Bill did not speak English when he started school. Memories of school days. Bill played on the basketball team in high school. He graduated in 1925. Speaks of graduation and the Prom in the recreation hall.

323-360 He worked at the Smuggler Mill after graduation. Also worked at Meldrum Tunnel for a few years. He retired at age 58 in 1964.

360-452 Talks about the dances at the Opera House and the Finn Hall. Speaks of the way the Mining Company handled the deaths at the mine. The Finns helped each other. Describes Christmas at Finn Hall and the Midsummer Day picnics hat were held every

year. Speaks of Finnish grocery store. He read Finnish newspapers that were published and sent from Michigan.

452-509 The rain was an important part of the life in town. Basketball team traveled to other towns on the train. His parents rode the train to Trout Lake to camp over weekends. Parents had the 2nd boathouse at Trout Lake. Memories of summers at Trout Lake.

509-540 Mother died of cancer in 1957 and father died in 1958. Parents and siblings buried at Lone Tree Cemetery.

Description: sound cassette (40 minutes)

Subjects: Side A
Early history of parents
Trip to Finland
Depression
School memories
History of working years
Finnish community
Trout Lake
Parent's deaths