

Oral Histories

Number: OH 15 Date: 3/12/88 Condition: Holdings:
Fair WP Library

Initials: DP Incomplete

Interviewees: Minnie Ackerman, Madeline Studaker, Lola Swan, Perina Ranta, Randy Brown, Vickie Ranta Eidsmo

Interviewer: Vickie Ranta Eidsmo/Randy Brown

Abstract: Side A only
01-02 Introduction by Vickie Eidsmo.

02-87 Early history of Minnie and Madeline and their arrival in Telluride. Memories of traveling by train and being met by uncle with horse drawn sleigh. First impressions of Telluride. Strong Italian community in town at that time. Talks about social life. They rode horseback to Tomboy Mine to bowl. Speaks of the Tomboy closing. Their mother cooked at the Tomboy boarding house one summer. The Carbinerro closed during the depression. Perina Ranta was living at Ophir then. Perina speaks of riding the tram to the Carbinerro.

87-139 Perina Ranta's family history and their arrival in Telluride. Father came to the United States before World War 1, but mother was not allowed to come until the war was over. Describes mother's trip to the United States on the boat. Father worked at Liberty Bell and Tomboy mines. Perina lived at the Smuggler until she was 4 years old. Memories of mother working so hard to haul water by hand to do laundry for the miners. Memories of father walking to work and riding the tram home when they lived at Ophir. Perina attended school in Ophir through the first 3 grades and then they moved to Telluride. Speaks of the Ophir schoolhouse burning. Memories of walking to school through the deep snow.

139-201 Lola Swan's family history and their arrival in Telluride. Parents owned the dairy at the Campbird Mine above Ouray. They moved to Telluride when she was 1 1/2 years old. History of siblings birth and move to California and back to Telluride. She attended school first three grades in Grand Junction, then moved back to Telluride where she attended school 4th

through 12th grades through the 12th grade. Father owned a meat market in Telluride. Describes the Pastimes Saloon. Talks about the games the young people played after school.

201-345 Describes the many dances that were held. Commonweal Club sponsored card games and formal dances. Memories of costume parties. Dances, basketball and plays held at the recreation hall. Describes the formal dances and names various people that were involved in programs there. Talks about all the events held at the recreation hall. Christmas dance held at the Sheridan Opera House. Dances were also held at the Swede-Finn Hall. Talks about the Finns and the Swede-Finns. Finn Town described. Pure Swedes and Finns (young-boys) had friendly rivalries. Names different nationalities in town.

345-383 Speaks of the various grocery stores in the various districts. Describes location of businesses. Lola describes the glass rolling pin filled with vinegar she purchased from the Goldsworthy store.

383-434 Talks about the "red light district". Young girls were forbidden to go near the area. Perina Ranta speaks of the Cassagrande murder.

434-480 Memories about special people in town. Minnie talks about her husband and his family.

Description: sound cassette (50 minutes)

Subjects:

Minnie and Madeline's early history

Perina Ranta's early history

Lola Swan's early history

Dances

Businesses

Red Light District

Cassagrande murder

Memories of friends