

Oral Histories

Number: OH 25

Date: 2/9/92

Condition:

Good

Holdings:

WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Cassietto, Alta

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A

0-91 History of parents who traveled to Telluride from Italy around the turn of the century. History of parents trip to Colorado and their early days here. Speaks of her parent's life at the Alta mine, her birth and parents return to Italy. She returned to Telluride at the age of seven. Speaks of remembering when the armistice was signed for World War I.

91-118 Alta missed a year of school because of illness during the flu epidemic. Recalls many school memories, including helping her 5th grade teacher hem her wedding dress during sewing class.

118-192 Describes the many different houses she lived in while growing up. Mentions the Balliger family and how their name was changed. History of Mine's Union Hall. Speaks of the labor strike in 1902 and 1903. She talks about the history of the house they owned; at one time was the Episcopalian Church, Tells of the many different churches that were in town at one time and where they located. Gives some history of the recreation hall. Talks of the exodus of people from town in 1919 when the mines closed.

192-238 Speaks of her father's death in Carbinero Mine in 1926 at which time she started working for the Daily Journal. Relates her many experiences as a reporter. Speaks of Dad Painter and his life in Telluride.

238-305 Alta was first lady postmistress in Telluride. Speaks of history of post office and different locations in town. Recites story of miner riding his horse in post office lobby with intentions to mail it to Placerville. Speaks of locations of Express office and gives some history of them.

305-398 Speaks of her father his death and tells of wages he earned working at Tomboy. Describes her life after his death, her work at the newspaper when it was a daily. Speaks of the bank closing in 1929. She names the many bosses she had at newspaper and the salary she earned. Speaks of taking the exam for the post office. She and three men took it and she was the only one to pass.

398-418 Dad Painter owned abstract company and the newspaper. Talks about his marriage and life.

418-449 Speaks of the Commonweal Club.

449-560 Talks about the trains and the different schedules. She rode the Galloping Goose to Cortez for a wedding. Speaks of the Vandevere's and describes their life on Sunshine Mesa. Mentions picking mushrooms & different outings with her friends.

Side B:

00-84 Names different mesa residents. Alta loved to dance and talks of the different musicians and where the dances were held. Dancing classes were offered in school. Names different courses offered in school at that time. Recalls that there were 39 students in her 6th grade class. Many different memories. Recalls various teachers in school. Telluride school had a wonderful curriculum during her time. School started to go down by the time she was in high school because of the mines closing.

84-120 Speaks of the mines progress during the 36 years she was in the post office. The post office was used as a bank, selling many money orders and etc. during the war years. Names various dance bands that played at their dances.

120-135 The class of 1925 had many outstanding students, that did very well later on in life and names some of the students and tells what they accomplished with their lives.

135-291 Names men from Telluride who were post masters and a couple who were postal inspectors. Recalls the many different businesses in town and where they were located. Two opera houses in town at one time, plus many unique businesses. Speaks of different times in Telluride when residents left and then would move back when times got better. Describes cigar factory that was located behind the post office at one time.

291-350 Alta worked in newspaper office from 1927 until 1934. Speaks of memories of 36 years working at the post office. When mother arrived in Telluride in 1905, the population of the area including the surrounding mines was around 5000. Talks of early life then and all the tragedies and hardships of living in a mining town.

337-456 Speaks of Susan Karcher, a seamstress that made costumes for people and sewed for the "ladies on the line". Recalls different "red light ladies" and tells of some of their marriages to respectable men in town.

456-604 Speaks of her sister's death at age eight and her brother's life in the service. Mentions Frank Wilson, the drug store and tells the story of Mr. Baisch was killed. Speaks of C.D. Waggoner. Talks about all the robberies, bootlegging and high grading of gold in that time. Tells story of two sisters that graduated from Telluride and played in the San Francisco Symphony.

Description: sound cassette (90 minutes)

Subjects:Side A

Early history

School memories

History of buildings & churches

Newspaper reporter

Postmistress

Dad Painter

Commonweal Club

Side B

Trains & Galloping Goose

School memories

Post Office

Class of 1925

Former businesses

Various memories

Red Light District

Sister's death

Frank Wilson and C.D. Waggoner