

Short, Elbert

Tape Catalogue Card

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Place Placerville, CO.
Interviewer Linda Luther
Phone
Time

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Sides 2
Recorder Marantz
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Time	Names & Places	Subjects covered
06-72	P.Owens, Woods Bros., New Mire, Vanadium	Early history of parents and their arrival in Placerville. They moved here in 1901. Father and P.Owens bought a blacksmith shop and later sold to Woods Brothers and moved to Sawpit where they started building wagons. Sold them for \$100 each. Also owned the blacksmith shop in New Mire which is where the Vanadium Mill was located. His uncle hauled ore from the Bear Creek Mines to the mill. Later they bought the store and boarding house in Sawpit.
72-175	Dalpez, Evans, P.Blackball, New Mire	Describes Sawpit and life there when he was a boy. They were camping at Woods Lake when he was 7 years old and his appendicis ruptured and they took him to Salida for surgery. It took 3 days to get there. They had lots of good neighbors. Talks about the dances at New Mire. Also had movies there upstairs over the post office. Descibes businesses at New Mire. Tells story of the barber shop in New Mire and how it came to be there. Later when mill closed, Dalpez took the family that owned the barber shop to Norwood, and they started one there.
175-215	H.Ford	Vanadium was mined in the mines in Bear Creek and Placerville. Ore from Placerville was shipped 4 miles by train to the mill in New Mire. Story about Henry Ford and his efforts to buy vanadium from the mill to make Fords. The deal fell through as the price wasn't right.
215-283	Lizzy G.	A lot of placer mining in Sawpit during his childhood. Ore was shipped to Durango smelter for years, on the train. Sawpit was incorporated during that time and the population was 500. Stories of working for his dad on week-ends in the blacksmith shop. People boarded for \$1 a day-3 meals a day at mothers boarding house. Supplies for store were shipped in by train. Father bought flour in quantities of 2 car(railroad) loads at a time in #50 sacks. He bought 1800 pair of shoes and sold out at \$1 a pair. Elbert attended school in Sawpit. Later his parents sold the store, boarding house and blacksmith shop and the family moved to Redvale (near Norwood) where they bought a ranch. Elbert attended school through the 8th grade there. After that they moved to Montrose.
283-314		They moved to the ranch in Redvale right after World War I. Father was the road overseer and graded and maintained roads in the area. Talks about the flu epidemic that swept the area during that time. His father made caskets for many children that died during the flu.
314-372	Woods Bros., J. Dempsey, J.C. Penny, Madam Curie, C. Mason, Gateway	<i>2 last places</i> Speaks of the history of the Woods Brothers and Woods Lake. They bought Cottage Hotel in Placerville. Names people that stayed there, including J. Dempsey and J.C. Penny. Story of Madam Curie who worked in the laboratory at New Mire, trying to separate radium from uranium. The ore came from the mine in lower end of county near Gateway.

372-472

Describes Placerville around 1915. Travel was by team and wagons and the roads were maintained by hand.

397-472

Del Webb

Elberts life after moving to Montrose. Later he went into mining for Del Webb in Gyp Valley. Describes the uranium mining activities in the west end of the county during World War II. People were mining to make uranium to make the big bomb. They used uranium to split the atom and the quality of the ore was better in those mines. Describes the types of ore mined there. Mines were leased to the United States Government. The ore was milled there instead of being shipped.

472-518

He returned to Vanadium in early 40's. The mills were shut down and the ore was shipped out. He worked at Fall Creek mine then. There were 30 men working there 7 days a week. He maintained the equipment. Describes the machinery used. After leaving there he went to Denver. Speaks of leasing mine with Del Webb. Stories of mines he operated earlier. Mentions that his picture is in the book "The Silver San Juans"

518-595

M.McClure

Describes the train system at Placerville. The depot was there. Special excursion trains on Sundays. Speaks of social life then. Lots of dances. Names many communities in the area such as Leonard, Sawpit, Placerville, New Mire and lots of ranches on the surrounding mesas. Talks about all the changes during the years. People are not as friendly now. Feels he is the only old timer in Placerville.

595-599

SIDE B

00-49

His observations on Telluride now.

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His opinions on skiing. Talks about the high prices of cars now.

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