

Interview by School Children 1980

OH 103

Bill Ranta

History of parents. Bill worked as carpenter at the mill and mine

Story of 1914 mudslide

Names foods and how they were prepared. They used coal and wood stoves to cook on and heat houses. Had a well in yard for water and had outside toilets. Speaks of farmers from Delta and Montrose that sold fruit and vegetables in town in the summer.

Mentions people hunting for deer for food and talks about when the elk first came into the area.

Transportation was by trains and horseback. Mules were used to haul supplies to mine. Sleighs and sled were used in winter. He traveled by train and cars to various towns to play basketball.

In the early days, mail came over Last Dollar Road, later brought in by train.

Telluride had a telegraph station and there were two newspapers in tow. Most homes had phones.

Social life. Different ethnic groups had their own entertainment. Dances and parties at the Finn Hall and Swede-Finn Hall. Very little skiing. Coasting was main activity during winter months. Mentions when the first movies came to town.

Speaks of Marshall Elscamp.

Describes clothing they wore in winter. and the laundry methods.

Not a lot of interior plumbing. houses were heated by coal and wood stoves.

Miners died young. Many diseases and many people died from pneumonia. There were no inoculations at that time. The mines paid doctors to practice here. Talks of the veterinarians, doctors and dentists.

Speaks of the family life.

School--there were 20 or 30 students in the classes

Talks of the future of Telluride.

How Telluride got its name.