

Irryng, Louis, The Golden Oldies #MU10

Phone 000-0000

Address

Date June 28, 1979

Place

Interviewer Joy L. Poole

Phone

Time

Names & Places Subjects covered

Tape Catalogue Card

Tape # MU10

Location Museum Tape

Length 45 min.

Sides 2

Recorder

Sep Mike

00-100

Mrs. Cushman

History of parents birth. Louis born in Pendera in 1908. Rest of his family born in the Dolores and Cortez area. Mother travelled by covered wagon from Nebraska to McElmo Canyon. The journey took 2 years as her father had to stop and work along the way. His grandfather on his father's side was a doctor and worked in Sawpit and Vanadium. Father worked at the Liberty Bell mine in 1904. Mother worked in a boarding house at the Pennsylvania Mine, where she met his father. His parents left by wagon and somewhere between Rico and Dolores his grandfather had a stroke and died.

100-178

C. Woods, F. Allen,
Worstar, Dr. Good

His parents came back to the area in 1904 and left again in 1906. Family returned again in 1924. Louis worked as a young man on the Black Bear tramway. Wages were \$3.50 a day. Later worked at the Smuggler on the tramway. Names various bosses at the mine and mill through the years. The mine employed 700 men at that time. Speaks of benefits he received when he lost a finger in an accident. Dr. Good amputated his finger in the Miner's Union Hospital. He worked 7 days a week, with July 4th and Christmas off.

182-231

Elszamp, Alex
Carnere, K. McKelly

Names various businesses in town. Most groceries were purchased at the company commissary at the mill in Pendera and were delivered each day to the house. Would call grocery store in town and Alex Carnier who ran the stage would deliver to them. Farmers from Norwood and the mesas would bring in fresh produce. They bought milk and cream from dairies at San Miguel, who delivered to the house.

231-338

He hunted for rabbits and grouse occasionally. Average people did not have the money or time to hunt or fish. He did hunt for mushrooms above Lizard Head meadows. Father and mother belonged to Oddfellows and Rebekahs, which were social lodges. Speaks of large weddings he attended. Describes Italian wedding, the music and old country dances. Describes July 4th celebrations. Father talked about horse races that were held at San Miguel. The Navajo Indians would bring in their best horses to race, but the Utes had the best horses.

338-367

Dr. Bronson

Speaks of father's heart condition. Louise had scarlet fever when he was 5 years old and was under house quarantine. Describes Dr. Bronson. Many home remedies were used for various illnesses.

367-390

Describes riding the train to Trout Lake and Lizard Head. He would catch rides to Pendera on the train, from town. Names various stops the train made on the trips to Dolores. He also rode the Galloping Goose.

390-400

Talks about the Red Light District.

SIDE B

00-85

"Nigger Sally"

Continues description of the Red Light District. \$2 was the going price for obtaining a lady for the night. Cribbs were open 7 nights a week.

Names various places gambling was held. Describes the games that were played.

55-159
Speaks of Prohibition. Describes the type of liquor that was made. Most of the big bootleggers had stills around Placerville and was sold across the bars in town. He left in 1928 so depression had not hit Telluride yet. Mines did close their doors then. He went to Fico and then on to Silverton. Worked for the D&RG Railroad as a bridge man.

159-200
Mrs. Hicks, Gifford
Speaks of the dam built at Trout Lake. Speaks of the old power lines. Describes the Ajax snowslide that killed Mrs. Hicks and Mrs. Gifford. He was working at the mine at that time. Thinks Telluride was a great place to live.