

# Mahoney, Billy, History of Mining

Tape Catalogue Card

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Address N. Fir, Telluride, Colo. 81435  
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Place N. Fir, Telluride, Co.  
Interviewer by Billy Mahoney  
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Location OH File  
Length 60 min.  
Sides 2  
Recorder  
Sep Mike

Time Names & Places Subjects covered

- 00-77 Introduction to tape. Speaks of family's mining history. Billy is the third generation of miners. Mahoneys moved to Telluride area in the early 30's. Speaks of depression and mining activities at that time. The government rebuilt Keystone hill. The Mahoney family leased Pandora Hillside, made \$300 to \$400 for a years work, but gold was only \$20 per ounce. They also cleaned up the ball mill at Summit Hillside. Describe the process.
- 77-107 Jake Larson In 1936, Telluride Holding company formed and opened up the Smuggler Union Mine in behalf of Veta Mines. Veta mines operated 1937 to 1942, then Telluride Mines was formed (same ownership, different names) and operated until 1953, then closed.
- 107-128 History of Idarado Mines-started in 1949. All mining properties in Ouray and Telluride area were consolidated. Idarado closed in 1954 to build new mill.
- 128-250 L.L. Nunn, Blixt Brothers Speaks of other mines in district. Silver Pick, Special Session, Silver Bell, Carabou, Summitt, Gold King, the Alta, La Hunta, the Nellie, Bailard, Lewis, Water Lou, Black Bear, Tomboy, Japan Flora, Cimmarron, Smuggler, Maderia, Sherian Cross Cut, Boullion, The 76. Describes the small town at Tomboy.
- 250-364 Harold Porterfield Talks about the arial trams in the mining business, describes the area they connected and how they worked. Speaks of the tons of ore they transported. Describes "the hairy experince" he had on the Penn tram in 1945. Talks of winter conditions on Penn Tram.
- 364-410 J.Zadra, Magpie Jones, French Albert, J. Keith Louie White, Toss Ern Up, T. Kelly, J. Smock, Christmas Tree John Names different men he knew and worked with through the years. Tells stories of their lives and how some of them died. Speaks of other town characters. Mentions old timers he know in town. Describes the clean up of mines during the depression in order to make money to live.
- 410-425 Describes placer operations. World War II shut down gold mine operations in area.
- 425-436 Jim Dalpaz Speaks of the Mahoney Brothers mining operations in Liberty Bell. Also cleaned up old ball mills in the Ophir area. Describes process used. Mentions wire gold and how it was used.
- 436-514 Billy talks about ming days and his many experiences. He started in 1943, went into the armed services and returned to mining after he came out of the service and worked until 1970. Mentions many people he worked with during those years. He lost 22 friends in mining acidents in the 27 years he worked in the mines.Speaks of crossing

snow slide areas. Talks about entering mines after they were closed.

Mrs. George Wagner Stories about Mrs. George Wagoner and stories she related to Billy about the Wagner Brothers and their mining experiences.

514-556

Bob Carlson, J. Howe Describes mining operations and how the process works. Speaks of mining phrases used in mining and the tools they used. Describes what each tool did and how it worked. Speaks of all the support people needed to help miners conduct operations and names their positions.

556-642

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SIDE B  
00-50

Speaks of working in Black Bear. Describes ice crystal in Level I that grew inside from ceiling and rusting pipe lines. Very delicate and beautiful. White Bear also has such crystals.

50-80

Harvey Brown, Blixt Bros. Describes drilling stope in spiraling stairs in the Tomboy that went from boarding house to mine level- 5 levels. Speaks of working La Hunta mine one summer. Stories of Blixt Brothers and various mines they operated in La Hunta Basin. He worked with them when he was 14 years old. Speaks of his friendships with oldtimers. Describes wire gold and how it was mined.

80-152

Story of mining wire gold in Jackass Basin. Describes how Blixt Brothers built the road above Bridal Veil Basin by hand.

152-170

Blixt Brothers

Describes his 24 years of working mines. Describes Idaho Mines and how they were worked at different levels. History of Idaho Mining Company.

170-204

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Visney, Adams, Parsons, Visintine Talks about growing up in Telluride in the 1930's. No active mines in area in early '30's. Speaks of the depression. Talks about the town, Red Light District, Saloons and the bootlegging that was active during that time. Names various stills and their owners. Stories of bootlegging.

204-258

Lou Remine, Snodgrass, Buckley, Jones, and Hendricks, two local cops. G. Jones Stories of various characters in town. Describes Lou Remine and his house. Wait Snodgrass and Tom Kelly stories. Stories of George Jones, and Hendricks, two local cops.

258-378

Stories of dances held in Recreation Hall during the 30's. Swede-Finns held dances in their own hall. July 4th celebrations.

368-406

M. McDonald

Talks about Big Billie, a local madam and various establishments she owned.

406-441

Big Billie

Names other characters of the 30's, 40's and 50's. Stories about Caruso, John German, Geoge Kovitch, Bill Layton, Myers, Stan Brewer, Carl Disney and Fred Reece.

441-504

Caruso, J. German, G. Kovitch, Bill Layton, Myers, Stan Brewer, Carl Disney Fred Reece

Speaks of the best years of his life-40's and 50's. Talks about working in the Meldrum Tunnel. Describes and names mines that were interconnected through tunnels.

504-554

Thompson, E. Area mines started around 1878 and closed in 1978=100 years of mine operations with the exception of closure during depression, Names all

555-564	Visney, Kelly McKnight, Adams, Pilcher, R. Stone, Jew Fanny, Big Billie, Maude Bernie Trigger Malone, Little Billie	services that it took to keep mines and town going, such as logging, dairys, ranchs. <u>Names girls that worked in REd Light District n the</u> 30's.
564-600	Dr. Taylor, Tom McMahn, Babe Schuler, Swede	Mentions other characters in town--Doc Taylor, Tom McMahn, Kenny Boyer, Glen Walcot, Tommy McMahn. Describes McMahns's Ice Business. Mentions Swede Marie and Mrs. Gabardi.
600-617	Marie, Mrs. Gabardi	Speaks of riding the Gallopin Goose and mentions two girls that rode the Goose on week-ends to attend school in Telluride.

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