

Oral Histories

Number: OH 26 Date: 1/26/90 Condition: Holdings:
Good WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: McDonald, Malcolm

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A:

00-52 Early history of family. Malcolm was born in San Miguel in the same house his father was born in, in 1928. Great Grandfather, George Hastings, started freight line from Missouri to Denver area. He arrived in Telluride the first time in 1864 and his family in 1876. He was married in 1879. Grandfather Homer Hastings was born in 1873 and was brought to Hastings Mesa in 1878. Grandfather McDonald came to Telluride in 1885. Malcolm has the original deed signed by Woodrow Wilson, that his grandfather "proved up" on the homestead, which is now Gorrondo Park. His father was born in San Miguel in 1905. He ran the freight line from the Cabinerro Mine to Placerville in 1929.

52-74 After all the mines closed up in Opir, the family moved to Hastings Mesa during the depression. He attended 1 room school and rode a horse 1-mile to the school. School was at the old Pritchard Place. They had both winter and summer school. He moved to Telluride in 1939.

74-102 His father helped to build the Ariel tram in 1936 for the Bullion and Pennsylvania mines. Malcolm started to work at the mine at the age of 14. He worked for the mine for a total of 22 yeas and spent 2 years in the service in Korea.

102-125 Describes boyhood activities with friends.

125-139 Grandfather mined a claim in Lahunta Basin. He had to pack everything in and out with mules. Used a trail up Bear Creek when snow melted in the spring.

139-258 Malcolm moved to Telluride from Hastings Mesa at the age of 9: very different from what he was use to. Describes the hot lunch program at the mesa school. Describes life on the mesa in the winters. The log hall was the central location for dances. Had big get together every fall when Mr. Martin would come from Ridgway to harvest all the crops with his machines. Boyd Collins had a dairy farm on the mesa. Rancher sold stock in fall and shipped to Denver. Grandfather bought up homesteads as people moved out. He sold out after his son died. Grandfather moved off the mesa with wagons and a team of horses, as he never owned a car. Describes the Collins dairy.

258-315 Malcolm's father died in 1946 after accident on power pole. Malcolm was 17 years old and his sister was a year old. Malcolm married at the age of 25. His wife's father suffocated in mine fire, when the Pride of the West burned in 1942 in Silverton, Colorado. Tells of deaths of both his grandparents. Grandmother acted as nurse for the whole mesa.

315-369 Speaks of the job he worked on during the summers and after school at the mine and working on Ophir Pass.

369-437 He tells the story of Tommy McMahn playing football in school. Describes the six man football teams he played on and speaks of the boxing team.

437-563 Speaks of his years working for the school Talks about the first ski tows and the people who worked on them.

563-600 Speaks of his years driving the school bus and the mine bus between Ophir and Telluride.

Side B:

07-27 Talks about the Silver Bell Mine at Ophir Loop and the Ophir Community.

27-126 Malcolm names different principals at the school he worked under. Speaks of different policies of the changing school administration. Memories of the school and the gymnasium burning.

126-250 Malcolm was the first building inspector in town. He received no salary for it. Many stories about his job as building inspector.

250-301 Tells of his uncle cleaning up the town with a team of horses and a scraper after the 1914 flood. Also talks of Rick Richardson running a stage line from Placerville to Paradox Valley after World War I. Speaks of Ford making Model T 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Description: sound cassette (71 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Early family history

Hastings Mesa schools

Brief history of working years

Lahunta Basin

Hastings Mesa

Father's death

Ophir Pass

School memories

Skiing

Bus driving

Silver Bell

Side B

School

Building Inspector

Flood