

Oral Histories

Number: OH 6

Date: Nov, 7 1988

Condition:
Good

Holdings:
WPL

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Mary McDonald

Interviewer: Lael Fruen

Abstract: Side A

00-66 Early History. Hastings Mesa was named for her grandfather. She attended school until the 5th grade on Hastings Mesa. There were two schools on the mesa at that time. Memories of school days and living on the mesa.

66-101 When she started to school in Telluride in the 5th grade, she boarded in town with a local family and went home on week-ends. Her mother moved to town when she was in the 7th and 8th grades. She graduated in 1926 and then went to school in Gunnison and then taught for 2 years before she was married.

101-116 Speaks of the depression years. She and her husband stayed with her father on the ranch on the mesa. School activities, coasting, dancing and etc.

116-146 Mary rode the train to Montose, also the Galloping goose. Her husband died when their daughter was small. He was working in the warehouse at the Idarado Mine at the time. Father sold ranch on Hastings Mesa and moved to Ridgway.

146-216 Describes the long winters on the ranch. Attended movies for 25 cents. Speaks of former classmates. Stories of their 16 years working for the phone company. Speaks of social lodges she belonged to.

216-311 Names different businesses on Main Street. Speaks of activities at the Elks Club. Names cafes and saloons on Main Street. Describes the old Roma Café and Bar. She was not allowed to go to Pacific St. near the Red Light District. Memories of the first car in town.

311-362 Mary's father ran for county commissioner at one time. Names people that were important politically at that time. Her son was born at home, but her daughter was born at the American Legion Hospital. Names different places she worked.

362-520 Speaks of Finn Town. Talks about the Sheridan Hotel. Names wages she earned through the years. Talks about Frank Wilson. School activities. Speaks of changes in Telluride. Memories of skiing on the mesa. Speaks of church she attended.

520-588 Speaks of working for Harold and Grace Brewer and Frank Wilson.

Side B:

00-14 Blank

14-60 Many stories of working for the Brewers. Speaks of Joe Zoline and the changes in town. Stories of bootlegging in Telluride.

60- 110 Describes the telephone (Mountain Bell) system. Talks of changes in electronics now

110-132 She rode her own horse while growing up. Speaks of Indians working at the mine.

132-209 Depression memories. Speaks of riding the tram before she was married to the Smuggler Mine. Talks about the Ophir dances. Describes the population in town during various years. Memories of Tomboy and Smuggler Mines. She rode the stage to Tomboy to attend dances.

209-288 Speaks of her present life now. Conversation about events in their lives.

Description: sound cassettes (70 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Early history and school years

Depression

Working for Phone Co.

Business & Politics

Working years

Side B:

Working for Brewers

Describes Phone system

Memories of growing up