

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 48      Date: March 10, 1988      Condition:      Holdings:  
Good (noisy)      WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Montrose Group--E. Ranta, H. Wright, O. Anderson, A. Moreaux,  
J. Bonato

Interviewer: John Payne

Abstract: Side A only

00-48 Otto Anderson was born at the Tomboy Mine. Parents came from Finland. Harry Wright arrived in Telluride in 1916 with his mother. Harry speaks of working at the Tomboy Mine when he was 16. Describes living at the Tomboy after he was married. Albert Moreaux moved to Telluride in 1909 at the age of 1 from Philadelphia. Jim Bonato was born in Telluride in 1923. His mother was from Italy.

48-89 Harry Wright recites stories of working at the Tomboy. Miners were required to wear coat and necktie to dinner night. The Tomboy Mine was owned by an English company. Describes pool table and bowling alley that were there. The company subscribed to foreign newspapers for their workers who were different nationalities. Dances were held every month. Picture shows twice a week. Everyone worked under sheds protecting them from the snow. Talks about population there at the time.

89-102 History of Idarado Mine Company. Names different companies that owned it through the years.

102-157 Elmer Ranta speaks of his life after graduation from Telluride High School. His parents came to Telluride from Finland around 1902. Speaks of the labor strike in 1901. Describes Finn Town and Swede Town. Elmer was born in Telluride and his brother Bill, was born in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

157-185 They speak of where they met their wives. Harry retired from the Western Colorado Power Company in 1972. Albert retired from Idarado in 1967. Jimmy speaks of working at the Veta (Idarado) Mine.

185-243 Memories of the depression. Tomboy closed in 1927. Harry tells of leaving and going to Arizona and Utah to look for work.

243-257 The social life consisted mostly of dances. Names various places they attended dances.

257-275 Speaks of travelling by train and their schedules. Harry sold newspapers at the depot when the train came in.

275-344 They speak of school sports and activities. Lots of baseball town teams. Memories of summer activities-swimming in Cornet Creek. They talk of the rivalry between the Finns and Italians as kids. Ice skating in winter on Cornet Creek. They also skated on McMahn's ice pond.

344- 384 Otto describes climbing to Campbell's Garden and skiing down the power line. Describes the "Finn Boot" his father made to use with home skis.

384-568 Albert recites story of the 2 bodies found in the canyon above Pandora. Jim's memories of watching the federal agents break up the moonshine stills. Many stories of bootlegging. They tell more stories about the trains. Jimmy speaks of bootlegging again.

568-606 Harry's memories of cutting wood for the stoves. He sold firewood to the "girls on the line" for 50 cents a sack.

Description: sound cassette (45 minutes)

Subjects: Side A only  
Early history of interviewees  
Tomboy Mine  
Idarado Mine  
Elmer Ranta  
Their work history  
Depression  
Social Life  
Train  
Youth activities  
Skiing  
Bootlegging & trains  
Red-light District