

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 97

Date: 1974

Condition:

Holdings:

Poor

WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Pangrazzi, Speranzi

Interviewer: Fred Blackburn

Abstract: Side A Tape OH 97

00-108 History of family. Younger brother had to pay out so much money to come to the United States. Brother married before coming to states.

108-214 Husband worked at Matterhorn in mine after arriving in U.S. San Bernado mine first one he worked in. Then they moved to Ophir and worked at Silver Bell and later at the Butterfly mine. Traveled to Washington and returned to Butterfly to work. From Ophir he walked up to the mine every morning. Started at 5am and it was a 3 hour walk, going and coming.

214-314 Depression times. They could not find a job anywhere. Bought a house. Money was promised from husband's boss, but did not get paid. He was working for \$2.75 a day. Men had to wait until somebody died before they could get a job. What money he got, he put in a bank in Durango and then the bank went broke. Times were hard. Her husband hunted rabbits to eat. He worked on the road, and then the Carbinero reopened so went back there and then to the Alta and also for Joe Oberto on a lease by the Smuggler.

314-584 Girls went to school in Ophir. She moved to Telluride so girls could go to high school. Her husband was working at the Alta running the tramline. Speaks of not speaking English very well. Her husband moved to Telluride and found a job working at the carpenter shop. The best time of her life with the girls. The boys were not bothering the girls as they were all in the war. They settled into life in Telluride.

584-616 Wishes she had written down her memories.

616-628 Describes her house in Ophir. It was a barn at one time.

### SIDE B

00-59 One of the rooms in the house at Ophir was piled high with manure where the former tenants use to keep their rabbits. Upstairs was full of dog's stuff. She scrubbed the whole house on her hands and knees and she was pregnant. Husband was working at the Silver Bell. They kept cows and sold the milk and delivered it. She kept house and did chores and he worked at the mine. They each did their share to make a living.

59-141 Speaks of husband working at various mines. He walked all the time. Not much money. Also worked at the shop. He took shares in the mine instead of being paid.

141-187 Everyone was in the same situation. They did put some money away in the bank. The girls saved their money in a little bank then put it in the town bank. They lost all their money when the bank went broke. The girls had \$75.00. It was just their Christmas money and they worked at mines when they were older

187-287 Her husband worked as a trammer in mines, but never worked as a miner. Beslack was the boss and he was crooked. Some of the miners fought with him. Took him to court because he wouldn't pay them.

287-340 When Sylvia started to school, she did not speak English and had a hard time. Speranza did not learn English as she did not get out much and just talked to other people from the old country.

340-406 She speaks of living in the old country and the hard times people was going through there. They needed to go out to find work. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> world war, people could raise more food over there. Lots of people immigrated to France. They had to wait 5 years for their application to be processed before they could come to the U.S. It took lots of paper work and money to get it passed. Her brother who was already here sponsored them.

406 440 Her brother worked in the mines and in the San Juan Saloon. He came from Gallup, New Mexico to Ouray and then on to this area. Speranza was the baby of the family. Her mother died when she was 18. Her mother died in February and in April the family received a letter and picture of brother's wife and baby born in United States. If brother had stayed in old country would have had to serve in army. Her father was a shoemaker and came over to the U.S. three times. Mother died in 1918 at the end of the war. Girls worked like men, it was so hard, as all the men were in the war.

Description: sound cassette (60 minutes)

Subjects: Side A Tape OH 97

Family history

Matterhorn

Depression

Family life in Telluride

Ophir

Side B

Ophir

Husband's employment

Family finances

Beslack

Learning English

Life in the old country

Family history