

## Oral Histories

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Initials: DP

Interviewee: Pera, Walter/Allene

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A

00-34 Allene's early history and activities as a child in Rico. Schools attended in Rico. Worked as phone operator after she got out of school. Memories of dances.

34-62 Describes how she met her husband, their wedding and courtship. Walt describes the jobs he had at the end of the depression

62-186 Describes life at Tomboy for the year of 1939, where they spent a year as watchman for the Western Colorado Power Co. Tells of trip to town for the birth of second child. Allene walked a mile on snowshoes when she was 8 1/2 months pregnant, then through the mine to the Pennsylvania Tunnel and down the hill on the tram to the mill. Same trip back up the hill, after the baby was born. There was 15 feet of snow at the mine that year.

186-209 Talks of moving to Nevada and Utah during the first part of World War 11. Speaks of the depression years.

209-289 Walter describes water systems at Blue Lake and Ptarmaigan Lake.

289-311 Talks about the trains, both passenger and freight and their schedules.

311-429 Their house was built by Walter's father, Jacob Pera in 1911 when he arrived here from Finland. Allene speaks of all of their children being born in the hospital which is now a museum. Walter mentions the tennis courts that were at Pandora and on the lot where the Tomboy Inn is now. Social life in early marriage consisted mainly of dances with live music. Out of town trips to Montrose for dentists took all day and were considered an outing.

429-443 Describes the Christmas Day activities in town.

443-568 Speaks of life during the depression. Subsidies were given by the government for the people to live on. Many memories of the depression.

Side B

00-113 Allene talks about growing up in Rico. Three grocery stores, two churches and numerous bars and saloons and a movie theater. A settlement of Navajo Indians lived in

Rico on one end of town: the adults worked at the mine. Names various mines there. Stories of bootlegging and stills in Rico and Telluride. She mentions the doctors and medical facilities in Rico. Many snow slides there. Allene was good friends with Margaret Pellet whose mother was a Sate Representative at that time.

113-145 Describes the stamp rationing during the war. The Smuggler Mine at Telluride reopened after the depression. Women and men both worked long hours at the mill and mine during the war. Soldiers worked at the mine and mill.

145-183 Tells story of how Ben Grimes reopened the mine after the depression.

183-248 They talk about August Penasa's terrible accident in the mine in 1939. Describes loss of his leg and trip out of mine by mine car to town for medical help.

248-279 Many memories of their life: jeeping, dancing, hunting and picnics. Walter talks about his love of the mountains and the outdoors.

Description: sound cassettes (73 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Childhood memories

Wedding and courtship

Living at Tomboy Mine

Living in Nevada and Utah

Water systems at Blue Lake and Ptarmaigan Lake

Train

Years of early marriage

Christmas

Depression

Side B

Rico memories

World War 11

August Penasa

Social life