

## Oral Histories

Number: OH 20

Date: 6/13/90

Condition:  
Good

Holdings:  
WP Library

Initials: DP

Incomplete

Interviewee: Peterson, Art & Martha

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A

00-76 Birthdates and history of family. Art's father and his brother were from Sweden. After arriving in Telluride they went to work at the Liberty Bell Mine. His brother was killed at Liberty Bell in mining accident. Mother's grandfather came to Telluride in 1886 and worked as a bricklayer. He built the two Nunn houses on Main Street, the Masonic Hall and various other brick buildings in town. He laid the last brick for the Masonic Hall on New Year's Eve, 1899. Later he ran the livery stable on Pacific Street. Art's father bought it when his father died and Art went to work for him. Later in 1938 he bought property on Main Street and set up a garage. They hauled freight from the mines at Rico to the railroad cars. He built the first motel in Telluride. In 1949 he bought property and built the Skyline Ranch. They moved to Montrose in 1968.

76-105 Art graduated from Telluride High School in 1932 and worked for father at livery stable. He worked right shift while attending high school. He married Martha in 1935. Speaks of basketball and baseball teams. The school band participated in tournaments in Grand Junction. He mentions skating as a child on McMahn's ice ponds.

105-142 Martha's parents arrived in Montrose from Virginia in 1888. Her grandparents homesteaded on Deep Creek Mesa in 1894. Martha was born in Telluride in 1913. Martha's aunt was cooking at the Liberty Bell in 1907, so Martha's father started working there. Martha grew up in Telluride and attended school there, graduating in 1931. She was city clerk for several years. Worked a several jobs around town. She spent lots of time with grandparents on the ranch on Deep Creek Mesa in the summer. Parents homesteaded on ranch in 1918. Art and Martha did not see much growth in Telluride in the years they lived in the area. Times were hard.

142-167 They describe their wedding party at the Sheridan Hotel and trip to Cascade the next day as chaperones for the boy scouts. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the Christian Church in Montrose. His parents were married in the church in Telluride.

167-208 Art speaks of his brother's death. His brother Floyd enlisted in the navy right out of school. Talks about the freight business, hauling ore to Leadville and brought supplies back for all the mines in the area. They hauled all milling supplies and equipment up from railroad to Alta when the mill was rebuilt in 1937.

208-264 Art remember the railroad bringing guests into the Skyline Ranch. Martha took supplies to Rico in truck and rode the Galloping Goose home. Describes the rotary blades on Galloping Goose to keep the snow off the tracks. Tells story of mailman driving to Rico, getting stuck with the car and freezing to death. Discusses bad weather and snowfall in earlier years. Art drove school bus for 13 years and never missed a day and was never late.

264-508 They talk about building the motel and names the teachers that lived there. Speaks of all the hired help and different guests they had through the years. Describes building the ranch and living in the old bunkhouse while they were building. Art constructed the whole ranch without a power saw. Describes running the ranch, rebuilding it after the fire in 1962. In later years they started the jeep tours from the ranch. Art was the first person to take a motor vehicle over Ophir Pass in 1953. They speak of the Jeep Tours they ran for several years.

508-545 Martha talks about being musician for the Rebecca<sup>kah</sup> Lodge for 20 years. Speaks of her love for the piano.

Description: sound cassette (45 minutes)

Subjects:

Art's early family history

School events

Martha's early family history

Wedding

War years

Railroad and Galloping Goose

Motel and Guest Ranch

Rebecca<sup>kah</sup> Lodge