

Pioneering in Telluride, Martin Wenger MU29

Tape Catalogue Card

Phone

Tape # MU29

Address

Location OH File

Date Circa 1978

Length 30 min.

Place

Sides 1

Interviewer SM Cty. Historical Society

Recorder

Phone

Sep Mike

Time

Names & Places Subjects covered

00-22

Music and introduction.

22-51

Ballard,
Wenger, A. Downey

Martin Wenger arrived in Telluride in 1895 at the age of 5. he describes the town at that time. He lived in San Miguel, where he started school. Describes the teacher.

51-74

Ron Remine, Chas.
Painter

Tells history of the Remine brothers. Describes their discovery of old Spanish placer mine.

74-124

Describes early town which was first called Columbia. Names many mines in the area. Describes mining life. Wenger's father financed many prospectors. Tells of his father's death and their life at that time. Martin and his younger brother started delivering papers for the Denver Post in 1912 and continued for 3 years. They delivered the paper to the Red Light District.

124-154

Bulkley Wells, John
Herron, Charles
Chase.

Describes the Red Light District and the gambling saloons. Talks of the town during the labor disputes. Describes how the law was enforced at that time. Speaks of Bulkley Wells who was manager of the Smuggler Union and John Herron who was in charge of the Tomboy. Also Chas Chase, manager of the Liberty Bell. Describes Bulkley Wells.

154-163

Arthur Collier, Guy
Miller, Vincent St.
John, Sec.
Carpenter, Harry
Jardine, Charles
Moyer

Talks about the labor dispute. Names people that were involved in the dispute and gives his opinions of them. He delivered papers to all of them.

163-180

Describes the arrival of the State Militia on November 4, 1903.

180-194

Description of the town decorations for Christmas. Mentions the Sheridan Hotel, famous for its fine food.

194-234

Chas. Painter

Excerpts from the Telluride Journal, describing the 1901 fire at the Smuggler Union Mine where 28 miners died. Wenger remembers going to the morgue and watching the funeral procession. A mass funeral was held.

234-267

L.M. Umstead

Martin remembers the Liberty Bell snow slide on Feb. 28, 1902. Description of slide by L.M. Umstead.

267-296

A. Gustafson, O.
Mears

Wenger speaks of the Trout Lake flood on September 6, 1909. He and 2 friends walked to a point above Ilium and watched the flood. He describes watching it. The rail road was destroyed, so service was out until just before Christmas. When the service was started up again, a celebration was held and Otto Mears was honored.

296-320

Abbot, M. Cagy,
Elsamps,

Description of the Cornet Creek Flood on July 27, 1914. 15 blocks of

Wunderlich,
Bankston

homes and businesses were destroyed and main street was a sea of mud. The residents were warned of the flood by the phone operator.

320-330

Martin started working at the post office as clerk while a Senior in High School at 20 cents per hour. After his graduation in 1909, he worked full time at \$50 a month. Martin lived in Telluride until 1919, then went on to serve as postal inspector for the next 40 years.

330-335

Remarks by Martin Wenger

335-342

Music and credits.

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