

**Western Federation of Miners MU28****Tape Catalogue Card**

Phone  
 Address  
 Date Circa 1978  
 Place  
 Interviewer San Miguel Cty Historical Society  
 Phone

Tape # MU28  
 Location OH File  
 Length 30 min.  
 Sides 1  
 Recorder  
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Time	Names & Places	Subjects covered
00-16		Music and introduction.
16-46		Ballad of Labor strike.
46-71	Bill Haywood, Wm. Jennings Bryan	Telluride was a union town at the turn of the century. 1500 miners belonged and the union was considered to be the strongest in the Western Federation Union. By 1900, Telluride became known as the City of Gold. Other mining towns had all but died because of the Silver Repeal Act.
71-108	Vincent St. John, Oscar Carpenter	Describes the Sheridan vein, which was the richest gold in the state. Telluride was a genteel city of 5000 souls, including surrounding mines. Describes the town. Miners were paid \$3 per day for 12 hour shifts. Talks about the relationship of the miners with the union.
108-126	McKinnley, T. Livermore, Bulkley Wells	Election of McKinnley brought the gold standard act to Telluride. History of Citizens Alliance and how it affected the town.
126-142	B. Wells, Collins	Bulkley Wells and Collins intituted the system of Cornish mining, which denied miners \$3 per day. New system described, which allowed men to make only \$1 per day. On May 3rd, 1901, the miners went on strike. Wells and Collins hired "scabs" to work in their place. After 2 months, the miners made secret plans for a "wild cat" attack on the Smuggler Mine, to force the non-union miners out of town and get their jobs back.
142-180	John Bertel, V. St. Johns, Haywood, Mother Jones	Ballad of miners. July 3, 1901, description of the attack on mine. Many men were killed and wounded. Union men were dragging the "scabs" up the road, barefooted and marched them over the divide to Ouray. The union triumphed for the next year. Vincent St. John oversaw the construction the Union hospital and meeting hall. The Miners Union invited two speakers, including Haywood to town to speak for their cause. Description of speech. Anti-union feelings in Telluride were stirred up by talk.
180-204	Mother Jones, Haywood, J. Rockefeller Jr.	Mother Jones described, great supporter of miners. She inspired Haywood. Telluride never recovered from the strike of 1903.
204-245	James Peabody	Describes telegram sent to Mother Jones on her 100th birthday. Ballad of Mother Jones. Speaks of the fire in the Smuggler in 1902. Legislation was passed to regulate 8 hour days for miners. Peabody who was elected as Govenor of State refused to sign the 8 hour law.
245-265	St. John, Collins, R. Meldrum	Collins was shot by assasin while at dinner in his home. The Union denounced the crime and put up reward for killer, who was never found. The Citizens' Alliance urged the district attorney to prosecute and 57 union men and officers were indicted, including St. John. Farmers, ranchers and cowboys rode to Telluride, vowing to wipe out the Union. Many were deputized, including outlaw named Robert Meldrum.

Indictments were thrown out , but the damage had been done. The Union was now know as the Western Federation of Murders. St.John left Telluride, never to return. He later became the leader of the Wobblies.

265-285

Tension continued in town between the union and workers. Description of incidents in town between bussiness men and miners. Lobbying continued for 8 hr legislation to pass.

285-310

B. Wells, Martin  
Wenger, H. Floatin

Bulkley Wells moved to Telluride to manage the Smuggler Union. Describes Wells and his life. He kept peace in Telluride in 1902 and 1903 and was respected. Describes the conviction of Western Federation of Miners in 1902 in Denver. Voted to strike for 8 hr day. Miners all walked out. Comments from Martin Wenger, as newsboy at that time. Miners Union prepared for winter long walk, with soup kitchens . Union placed armed pickets at the various mines. Harry Floaten was jailed for speaking on Main Street.

310-330

B.Wells, R. Meldrum,  
Haywood

Mine owners began importing professional gunmen, outlaws and convicts to protect their property Excerpts from Bulkley Well brother-in-law's diary. Description of shootings by deputies.

330-340

Wheeler, Wells,  
Peabod6y, Ruton,  
Steves

Wells and Haywood negotiated in Denver. Wells agreed on \$3 per day, but was pressured by activists in Telluride not to negotiated further. Description of actions of Nation Guard in town. 100's of miners left the district--300 hard core strikers remained, including Union officers. Marial law declared on Jan. 3, 1904. Miners were shipped out on the railroad, leaving families in town. They were pushed out into the winter snow on Dallas Divde. Describes week of terror by soldiers.

340-370

Wells, Peabody,  
Haywood

The Govenor appointed B. Wells as Captain of Nation Gaurd. He formed local militia. A fort was built atop of Imogen Pass and equiped with water filled maching gun to keep out deported Union men. Peace reigned, but nor for long.

Martial law was lifted in 1904 and officers departed. Excited strikers began returning in droves to see families and collect their belongings. Description of Well's vigilanties attack against the returned miners, shipping them out on the train once again.

395-412

General Bell, B.  
Wells, Haywood,  
Chas. Mayer

Martial law again declared and 300 troops were ordered to Telluride. Story of Gen. Bells activities in town. He arrested president of Federation of Miners, Charles Mayer and made him a military prisoner in the lobby of the Sheridan Hotel. Describes fight between Haywood and Wells in the Union Station in Denver.

412-435

Calm though the sppring of 1904 with martial law. Excerpts from newspaper. Martial law was lifted by June. Strike called off in Nov. 1904 8 hour law was denied, the unions were dead.

435-440

In the early 1920's, Haywood exiled himself to Soviet Union where he died in 1928. Wells killed himself in San Francisco after losing vast fortune.

440-467

464-75

Ballad of Union  
Music and credits.