

Oral Histories

Number: OH 29

Date: 7/13/90

Condition:

Holdings:

Fair

WP Library

Initials: DP

Interviewee: Chaney, Helen

Interviewer: Davine Pera

Abstract: Side A

02-141 Birth dates and history of family. Parents reasons for coming to the United States. Speaks of father working at Tomboy Mine during the strike and leaving to go back to Philadelphia where he met his wife and they were married. Her father worked for \$8 a week in Philadelphia and felt he should move where he could make more money, so moved back to Telluride. He went to work at the Smuggler Mine. Helen remembers seeing the snow for the first time when she arrived in Telluride at the age of three. Her father met her at the train depot and they rode out to Pandora in a surrey with fringe on top. They lived with her grandmother and uncles all in one big house. She describes the miniature toys her uncle carved.

141-270 Helen attended school in Telluride, kindergarten through the 12th grade. Names all the teachers she had, starting in kindergarten up through the 12th grade. Speaks of different subjects she took in school. She studied history at home during the summer and the teacher tested her on it during the year. She graduated with the class of 1924 in a class of 12 boys and 6 girls. Speaks of the school reunions. After graduating she attended Parks Business School in Denver and later worked for the Oil Company. She traveled back and forth to Denver for Christmas vacations on the train.

270-419 She quit her job in Denver and moved back to Telluride to work for C.D. Waggoner at the Bank of Telluride. She worked there until the bank closed, starting at \$75 a month, but was soon raised to \$100 a month. She speaks of the bank closing and her feelings about it. She and her parents both lost money when the bank closed. Speaks of Mr. Waggoner.

419-488 She moved to California after the bank closed. Speaks of the 56 years she lived in California. She met her husband there at a ballroom dance.

488-499 Memories of living at Pandora as a child. They rode a horse pulled sleigh to school in the winter and a horse drawn buggy in the spring and fall. Tells the story of the snow slide that killed Mrs. Hicks and one other lady, but the baby survived.

Side B:

08-59 Speaks of her memories of the Trout Lake Flood. The mules pulled the empty ore cars as the train tracks were washed out. The train tracks ran right past her house. Speaks of the different Carriere children and remembers when Alex and Chick were born.

59-121 She speaks of her brother Albert who helped her uncle that was working for Mr. Hicks until 1928 when he left Telluride and moved to California. He moved back and forth to Telluride several times before moving here to work in the Telluride Mine. Her nephew was killed in the mine at the age of 26.

121-213 She joined the O.E.S. at age of 23 in May of 29 and belonged for 50 years. She belonged to Commonweal Club. They went to dances in surrounding areas in a horse and buggy. She loved to dance. She and a group of friends walked into town from Pandora to go to movies.

213-285 Helen could not speak English when she first moved to Pandora, but learned very quickly. Memories of home life. Remembers how deep the snow was and watching the train go by as it plowed the tracks.

Description: sound cassette (70 minutes)

Subjects: Side A

Early history

Schools

C.D. Waggoner

California years

Pandora

Side B

Trout Lake Flood

Brother Albert

Social life

Memories of home life