

Colorado Coal Mining Project

BARAJAS, Silveria (ca. 1903—)

O.H. 532

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 5 pp. (Spanish)

Tape length: 30 min. (Spanish)

Early life in Michoacan, Mexico; trip to the United States following the death of her parents; her marriage in Montana, and experiences living in coal mining camps of Colorado.

BAZANELLI, Victor (1891—)

O.H. 534a|

Interviewer: Eugene Craig

Date: April 30, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Immigrant from northern Italy describes the family's departure from southern Europe because father was unemployed, and their arrival in the United States in 1906; poverty and living conditions in the company town of Ludlow, Colorado; working conditions in the coal mines, where he started at fourteen years of age; union organizing activities, and "Mother Jones," a madam, who assisted the miners and encouraged them to organize; different mines, miners, and supervisors experiences during the miners' strike of 1913; attack by the militia and hired gunmen on the tent colonies of the miners and their families resulting in massacre in 1914; activities of the IWW, the Industrial Workers of the World in the 1920s.

BAZANELLI, Victor (1891—)

O.H. 534b

Interviewer: Harris Done and Eugene Craig

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

A north Italian immigrant who came to the United States in January 1906, describes the makeup of the coal mining areas of Ludlow and Trinidad, Colorado; the company town of Trinidad; working conditions in the mine areas including discrimination, explosions, union activity, and lack of safety; the Ludlow massacre, militia, and burial of the dead; activities of the Ku Klux Klan; ethnic clubs and organizations of the miners; and prostitution.

BERTOLINA, Battista (1878—)

O.H. 533

Interviewer: Harris Done

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 45 min.

Italian immigrant who began working in coal mines at the age of eighteen recalls his responsibilities as night foreman and later fire boss; his survival from two explosions at a coal mine in Hastings, Colorado; other aspects of the mining industry including working conditions, safety features, unions, and strikes.

BESHOAR, Barron (ca. 1890—)
O.H. 535
Interviewer: Eugene Craig
Date: May 4, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 60 min.

Author of *Out of the Depths* and personal acquaintance of union organizer John Lawson describes in detail Lawson's appearance, habits, personality, political views, his strategies while working on behalf of coal miners during the 1913—1914 strike, and his association with and expulsion from the United Mine Workers. Comments on other union activists including Ed Doyle, Frank Harris, "Mother Jones," and the reactions against strikers based on feelings of racial discrimination.

BISULCO, Nick (ca. 1902—)
O.H. 536
Interviewer: Eugene Craig
Date: May 3 and 4, 1971
Status: Not transcribed
Tape length: 2 hrs.

Italian immigrant and resident of Aguilar, Colorado describes the life—style of the town, its entertainment, educational facilities, and the local government; explains the credit, shipping, and supply systems of the company store of Victor American Mining Company where he became manager; gives some background and eyewitness accounts of the 1914 coal miners' strike including many vignettes of personalities in the mining towns of Aguilar and Ludlow, Colorado.

BRACCO, Jane (1894—)
O.H. 537
Interviewer: Eugene Craig
Date: May 4, 1971
Status: Final typed, 15 pp., index
Tape length: 30 min.

Daughter of a dairyman in Ludlow, Colorado recalls selling milk to coal miners in Hastings, and Delaega, Colorado; seeing, in Cedar Hills, Colorado the body of Louis Tikas displayed during

the strike of 1913; activities of the militia and regular army at that time. Narrator's daughter, Mrs. Elsie Hamm, is present during the interview.

COBO, Vicente (1900—)

O.H. 683

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 44 pp. (Spanish)

Tape length: 1 hr. 45 min. (Spanish)

Discusses immigration to the United States from Spain via Cuba in 1918, coal mining experiences in Colorado, strikes, question of discrimination in the mining camps, [Great] Depression, bootlegging, and the Ku—Klux Klan.

GIANNETTO, Antonio (1893—)

O.H. 538

Interviewer: Gerald L. Boaruno

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 30 min. (Italian)

Retired Italian immigrant discusses prohibition, his bootlegging activities, and the “Mano Nera” gang; experiences as a miner during World War II including difficult conditions in the Colorado mines.

GORMAN, Lois Dam (1905—)

O.H. 539

Interviewer: Daniel Hueftle

Date: May 4, 1971

Status: Edited, 6 pp.

Tape length: 20 min.

Daughter of a Colorado Fuel and Iron Company official briefly relates the fear of murder and kidnapping felt by her family in Trinidad, Colorado during the 1914 strike, miners' problems, management's lack of concern, and conduct of militia toward strikers.

GUERRIERO, Michele (1888—)

O.H. 540

Interviewer: Gerald L. Boaruno

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 17 pp. (English)

Tape length: 2 hrs. (Italian)

A coal miner for forty—seven years describes his migration from southern Italy in 1905; wages and working conditions in the Colorado coal mines before the 1913 strike; results of the militia attack on the tent colony in Ludlow, Colorado; effects of the [Great] Depression on the coal

mining industry; being blacklisted; bootlegging activities in Aguilar, Colorado during prohibition.

LEKIC, John (1893—)

O.H. 541

Interviewer: Harris N. Done

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 60 min.

Austrian immigrant and miner of forty—three years who lived in the Ludlow, Colorado tent colony gives an eyewitness account of the 1914 massacre; discusses causes for the strike, scab miners, and working conditions in the mines at that time with modern mines.

LOPEZ, Aladino (1895—)

O.H. 582

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 33 pp.

Tape length: 2 hrs.

Miner and native of Aguilar, Colorado recalls his thirty—eight years as a coal miner; union rules, wages, and pensions; United Mine Workers; Ludlow massacre of 1914; and the Ku—Klux Klan.

LOUKS, Howard (1910—)

O.H. 598

Interviewer: Eugene Craig

Date: November 12, 1970

Status : Not transcribed

Tape length: 1 hr. 30 min.

Son of a Nebraska homesteader who became a labor union organizer in the state of Colorado discusses the effects of the Depression on the economy of the small towns of Colorado, the Works Progress Administration, the cutthroat competition among the coal mine owners, the militant union activity and dangers of organizing in the 1930s including personal experiences as a union organizer.

MENDINE, Martin (n.d.)

O.H. 542

Interviewer: Eugene Craig

Date: May 4, 1971

Status: Final typed, 5 pp., index

Tape length: 20 min.

The manager of the company store of Colorado Fuel and Iron Company briefly explains pricing and credit systems, and the locations of outlets for the Colorado Supply Company.

MONTOYA, Alfred (1903—)

O.H. 543

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 32 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

An employee of Colorado Fuel and Iron Company who worked forty—three years without having any lost time or accidents, discusses safety precautions taken at various mines in the 1920s and 1930s; union organization in 1933; and living conditions in a company town.

PANTAZES, Pete (1894—)

O.H. 544

Interviewer: George Giacumakis

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 45 min. (Greek and English)

Discussion of relations between coal miners and company management, and a comparison of the Industrial Workers of the World versus the United Mine Workers of America.

RICCATONE, Paul (1912—)

O.H. 545

Interviewer: Harris N. Done

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 19 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

A coal miner since 1935, raised in the mining camps in Verwin Canyon, Colorado describes housing, recreation, and schools in the camps; his parents' efforts to make a living; the coal strike of 1925; personal experience in coal mines including wages, working conditions, and union operations.

SACCOMANO, August (1893—)

O.H. 577

Interviewer: Gerald L. Boarino

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 60 min. (Italian)

Italian immigrant from Grimaldi in the province of Cosenza in southern Italy who came to United States in 1910 to find work in the coal mines discusses living and working conditions in

the Colorado coal mines, the "*sciopero*", or the strike, and the Ludlow massacre in which he was injured.

SEBASTIAN, Francis L. (1889—)

O.H. 546

Interviewer: George Giacomakis and Eugene Craig

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Not transcribed

Tape length: 45 min.

Priest at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Trinidad, Colorado gives a brief description of the area and the makeup of the population, effects of the mine closures on the economy, and some activities of the church.

VIGIL, Encannacion (1870—)

O.H. 549

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 7 pp. (Spanish)

Tape length: 30 min. (Spanish)

A century old longtime resident of Trujillo Creek, Colorado recalls the move from Huerfano, Colorado; living conditions in the area; confrontation with hostile Indians; her marriage, and ranch life in those days.

VIGIL, Fernando F. (1891—)

O.H. 531

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 27 pp. (Spanish)

Tape length: 60 min. (Spanish)

A longtime rancher and company store operator of Trujillo Creek, Colorado recalls school days and justice of the peace experiences, the Ludlow massacre of 1914, moonshining during prohibition days, and the Ku—Klux Klan.

VIJIL, Sunforosa P. (1897—)

O.H. 550

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 1, 1971

Status: Transcribed, 13 pp. (Spanish)

Tape length: 30 min. (Spanish)

A native of Aveyton, Colorado describes early childhood experiences; the decision for her to marry and her ten—day honeymoon harvesting wheat; homesteading; making wooden, prop

beams for the coal mines; the area's *Los Penitentes* religious movement, and the status of the local Catholic church.

ZAMORA, Ross (1905—)

O.H. 548

Interviewer: Gary L. Shumway

Date: May 2, 1971

Status: Final typed, 31 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

Miner, born and raised in a coal mining camp near Trinidad, Colorado, explains mining methods used in Colorado and Wyoming; 1924 explosion at Willow Creek mine in Colorado; Ludlow massacre; hardships of the Depression era; pay scales; and living conditions in a company owned area.