

BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PLACE 301 South Arizona

Butte, Montana

DATE June 13, 1980

Sharon E Miller
Interviewee

Ray F. Colburn
FOR BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMOIR NO. 24

BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

MEMOIR OF CLARENCE MILLER

INTERVIEWER: RAY E. GALKINS

JUNE 13, 1980

MEMOIR OF CLARENCE MILLER

~~Int: What is your~~

Interviewer: What is your name?

Narrator: Clarence E. Miller.

Int: Where were you born?

Nar: Dear in Iowa.

Int: Who were your parents?

Nar: William Miller and Clara Miller. Clara Donald Miller. Donald's first name.

Int: When was that?

Nar: 1893, March the first.

Int: When did you leave Iowa?

Nar: When I was ten years old.

Int: What was your father doing?

Nar: He was a farmer near.

Int: Where did you go then?

Nar: We moved to Belgrade, Montana, on a farm.

Int: Where did you go to school?

Nar: I went some in Iowa and a little in Belgrade.

Int: How long did you go to school?

Nar: I went about four months in the first and that was it. Had to work.

Int: What did you do then? On the farm?

Nar: Yes.

Int: And when did you come to Butte?

Nar: I came to Butte in 1915. To work in the mines.

Int: Where did you live when you came to Butte?

Nar: In the Stoghorn Block on Wagoning Street.

Int: South Wagoning?

Nar: Yeah.

Int: What did you think of Butte when you came?

Nar: Well, I thought a lot of it because the best I could do other places was a dollar a day, unlimited hours and Butte, ~~was~~ ^{we got} four and a quarter for eight hours, then. It seemed awful big.

Q: Where did you start work? 105th mine?

Ans: Stewart.

Q: How did you start out? What job were you in?

Ans: Miner. Started as a mucker.

Q: How long did you stay to that?

Ans: Oh, probably three months. And then I went to the

Sault ~~St~~ Lawrence and hired out for a miner. And had a good partner that could chew me and save good time.

Q: How long was the Sault there? What kinds did you ~~work~~ work on?

Ans: I worked on the four, Four ~~was~~ Sault, I believe.

Q: Who was Foreman, do you remember?

Ans: We grew. So many four was their shift boss.

Q: Got along all right there?

Ans: Got along good there and from there I went to the Granite Mountain and I probably worked there about six months before the fire.

Q: You were a miner there?

Ans: Yes. Well, they put me on all jobs there, different jobs and from there I went to the Quezon. I worked there as a waterman for almost a year. That finished my mining.

Q: What do you remember about the day of the fire?

Ans: The fire?

Ans: Oh, well, I was on the 1800 and I'd went out to the station to get a bucket of water and find that the shift boss come down and got off at the 1800 and we talked those a few minutes and we saw them passing the cable, the electric cable, and he was talking me about it and then shortly afterwards we saw the smoke coming up. He says, "I'll call the surface" but he couldn't get the surface as they'd already had the men from the lower levels and I told him I'd go over and get the man in the steps to go over toward the Speculator and take them up the Speculator shaft. I got in a little

ways, the smoke was following as fast as you could walk, I got in a little ways and he called me back. He says, "I don't think you can make it." I wanted to go that way pretty bad but he talked me into coming and going with him and we would go on into the drift that went over to the Badger. He would go down in the slope ahead and get the men all out there and I was to wait for them ahead of the smoke and take them to the Badger drift. Which I did. We had a hard time getting back through the smoke 'cause your lamp would fill with smoke and you could see. You just had to feel your way back and we got into the Badger drift and the air ^{there was} all clear there. We didn't know the way out but one man there said he thought he knew the way out. We went up a manway three floors and broke through into the Badger drift. We went in a couple hundred yards and here was a heavy black band used for to hold the air in the Badger. We broke through that and went over and notified the men on the station at the Badger about the fire. They took the station tender and they changed over from the skips over to the cages and hoisted, started on the lower levels and hoisted all the men that had come over to the Badger.

After we got on top I went over to the Granite Mountain shaft and by then the smoke was coming up the shaft.

The Superintendent was there and he said we were to the engine room to hoist the cages without a bell. They had put on the cages and sent down to ^{bring up} the crew. When they put on the cages the two station tenders ^{rang} the bell for the lower level to start hoisting and the cage went down right into the fire. The foreman said we were to the engine room to get them to hoist the cages without a bell. Which I did. The cages came up red hot and it looked like they were all full of men. But it turned out to be as far apart the two station tenders. They were ^{by the} beyond recognition. We took them off of the cage ~~and~~ had cooled

Q: They lowered it down to the level. Did they take them off?
A: They went over to the Spee shaft and they'd brought up the first man dead then. They tried to bring him to with a pulmotor but too late. They brought up more dead men and a few ~~total~~ ^{that} were still alive. Then I went home and went up the next day and saw the man back up together with probably a hundred men in it, waiting to be skinflaked. That's it.

Jul.: How long did the fire burn?

Res.: I don't think it burnt very long. It soon went out but, of course, the smoke and the gas or whatever killed the men who were still in the mine. So fast that the Granite Mountain was downcast, it forced the air through the levels and the one that backhoed himself down into to keep the gas out was saved.

Int.: You don't know how many men were in the shaft that day?

Res.: No. There was supposed to be 2000 men working up there and the day shift would be the heaviest. It was probably at least 700 men on the night shift.

Jul.: Were they putting water down the shaft after —

Res.: When I first went over the Foreman, there was a fire hydrant and hose all ~~for~~ ^{for} looked up and he says, "Well turn the water in the shaft." We turned the water down the shaft and immediately, it turned the shaft downcast, where it had changed to ^{upcast} ~~upcast~~.

Well, the Foreman says, "Well, we can't do this." He thought very quickly and we turned the hose out, ~~the~~ ^{we} had the water in the shaft probably ten seconds. There was no more water put in the shaft because that was forcing the smoke through the mine.

Int.: Was the Granite Mountain normally upcast?

Res.: ~~Yes~~ No, downcast.

Int.: Normally downcast. The Road of the fire had made ~~was~~ it upcast? Until you turned the water in?

Res.: Yes. And as soon as we turned the water off,

within five or ten seconds she went back upward again. It took so very little to change it.

Int: When did they have the forward?

Nat: Well, I suppose they had it at different days, according to the relative, that is, the ones they identified and the ones that was not identified, I don't suppose there was a forward.

Int: Did you see any of the forward?

Nat: No. Not to remember. Probably did but I don't remember any of it.

Int: Did they have Palmer near at that time?

Nat: Yeah, but they didn't get there right away. It took a little while to get there. But they were the ones that brought up the load and the line over. At the Speculator.

Int: Yeah. They had to go in through the Speculator.

Nat: And, of course, they went in through all the levels during the rest of the night and the next day.

Int: That was started by an open lamp flame, wasn't it?

Nat: Yes. To lower the cable they hooked on it every 500 feet and when they stopped for to hook on the second one the first one broke off and the 500 feet slid down the shaft and just sank all the lead off and ^{by} turned the illumination on the wire just to a few ^{feet} ^{high}. The distance between would have to include the damage or what happened and it might get too close to the illumination and it caught fire and I found that he put it out and then turned and it caught again. And that was too much to pull out.

Int: Yeah, that was terrible. Well, did you have any other interesting experiences in the mines?

Nat: No.

Int: Just ordinary mining.

Nat: Yes.

Int: You were mining pretty good ore in there deep, wasn't you?

Nat: Well, as far as we know. Most of that was kept

secret. Nobody ^{really} knew what they was getting.

Int: There was no union at that time, was there?

Nat: No, The Union Hall was blessed up in 1914, ^{the year} before I came. There was no union then for years after.

Int: Was there any attempt at organizing in the mines when you were there?

Nat: No, No attempt to organize, no.

Int: You didn't hear anything about organizing?

Nat: No, No words whatever.

Int: Do you remember when Frank Little was hung?

Nat: Yes.

Int: He was an IWD organizer.

Nat: Yeah, I was, do you know what year that was?

Int: That was 1917.

Nat: Was it? Well, I was still in the mines then. I went out to hear him speak at Lake Arrow. The day before he was hung.

Int: Did you hear anything about the hanging? Were

~~there~~ there any stories around?

Nat: Oh, there was stories around but just practically one story, nobody knows whether that's any truth in it or not. I don't think Sid ~~later~~ told that. They showed it onto the Company.

Int: Did you see Little's funeral?

Nat: Yes, I did. An awful big funeral. They carried

the coffin down this street (Arizona Street). Six men carried it on their shoulders. They didn't see a horse,

Int: Yeah, I've seen a picture of the palbearers with the coffin. Did they carry it all the way to the cemetery?

Nat: They carried it by here. I saw they stopped off I don't know. But I ~~suppose~~ ^{probably} that they stopped down around Front Street.

Int: How you quit mining in—

Nat: I worked into a little of 1918. We started the shop, my father and I, and we was waiting for the

machinery at the time of the fire. The machinery was on the way. I was going to work until the machinery got here and we then opened the shop. Things would be full to start and we needed quite a little money for different things so I would travel to the river for a year. Then my father got sick and could not carry on and I took over from then.

Int: Was that in this same building?

Nat: No, it was well down. I been in four buildings within the 63 years, all within a block.

Int: You were making farms too, then?

Nat: Repairing farms.

Int: Repairing farms and doing steamboats too?

Nat: Yes.

Int: What did a good set of farms cost in those days?

Nat: Well, I sold farms for \$40 a set. It would cost at least 400 today. The same set.

Int: There were a lot of teams around here at that time.

Nat: Many teams, yes. Arizona Steel was full of teams. hauling coal and garbage and delivering groceries and lumber and everything. ^{made} The steel full of horses all the time. Coal was the big thing. Everybody burnt coal and the winter, it took lots of it. So there was many teams hauling coal.

Int: About how long after that did the trucks take over?

Nat: Well the last team ~~that~~ quit working?

Nat: There were a few teams working as late as '43, '44. And then World War II, the farmers couldn't get parts for their tractors and they went back to horses. For a year or two. Horse sales was good during that time.

Int: Well, the way things look now, maybe they'll come back.

Nat: Well, I hope not. Horses was not treated very good these days. Some of them worked for more than they should and it was pitiful to see what horses had to do. So I hope they never come back.

Int: Father's one passed told me, he saw a lot of wagons, he

had a number of stores, and he said that they used to change teams at noon. Come in at noon and take a fresh team. Half a day was about all they could stand, around town.

Nat: Well, at that time, every little grocery store, every body delivered. Just a small grocery store had a delivery team. Of course, Hardware's and the big ones had many teams. Before I came to Butte I drove stage Nat: Oh, did you, those did you drive?

Nat: I drove stage at Meyer's Falls, Washington. ~~Kettle~~ Falls was the headquarters. The stage line was 75 miles long.

Nat: How far did you drive on that?

Nat: Well, most of the time I took care of the bear and ~~made~~ the four mile run. I made that three times a day.

The first trip I had to reach the train at 6:40 so I would have to start about 6 and the last train was at 9:20.

All night, I watched passengers and handled mail and express and then those was freight teams. I worked on the freight before I went over to the stage and then the work, from Kettle Falls down to Drury was the mail run. The man on that made a round trip every day. And the next one was from Drury to Hunter and that was a round trip every day. But a different team each trip. They changed teams and then the next of the route was continued out to another man.

Nat: Well, interesting, what kind of a stage was it?

Nat: The old Concord stage.

Nat: How many passengers did it hold?

Nat: Well, it would hold — you could stand in six in the stage and then there room for two up with the driver. And then the mail in the back under their feet and the baggage and express on top or strapped behind.

Nat: In what year was that?

Nat: ~~Nineteen~~ ^{Nineteen} ~~and~~ ^{eleven} 13 twelve.

Nat: Were there any stages running around Butte when you

get home?

Mar: Not that I know of.

Int: It was all train.

Mar: Yeah. The B.A.P. had a passenger train at that time. From Butte to Anaconda. Gregson was the big thing with the train. There wasn't many places to go and Gregson was the favorite. You had to take the train to Gregson.

Int: When you started business in this block what other businesses were in the block?

Mar: There was several shoe shops, several butcher shops and several grocery stores and several restaurants.

Int: All in this one block?

Mar: Yeah and many restaurants, the restaurants was plentiful. Big ones, too.

Int: What was the Cabbage Patch like in those days?

Mar: Well, there was some respectable people in the Cabbage Patch, had nice houses but most of it was shacks. I don't know what to call the people who lived in them.

Int: Well, from what I've heard it included a little bit of everything.

Mar: Yeah, it did.

Int: If started out, from what I hear, as a little ~~to~~ settlement of miners and their families and ^{then} to some extent it was taken over by drifters and transients, I guess.

Mar: Yeah. Colored and white. Lots of sporting women in the Patch.

Int: Were there houses there or were they independent?

Mar: Independent. Cabins. There was one house.

Int: Who saw that?

Mar: Gerdie Fitz Williams

Int: Well, how about the red light district up this way?

Mar: They claimed there was 500 girls in that. In the red light at that time. Course, the majority of ^{the} people in Butte were men.

Int: A lot of transient workers.

Mrs: Yeah.

Jul: Who were running buses up there?

Mrs: There was lots of them. Who they were I could tell you.

Int: What sort of people were they to deal with?

Mrs: Very good. Very good. They had money to pay for what they got and most of them were very good.

Jul: They were pretty well tolerated by the people around town, weren't they?

Mrs: You didn't hear nothing against them, at all, nobody tried to run them out. No trouble. They had

police men on the beat to stop trouble amongst the girls.

Jul: How about Chinatown over there? ^{Chinatown?} What do you remember?

Mrs: Well, I went to Chinatown quite a lot. I liked to play Chinese lottery, so there was many places running and there many noodle parlors and Chinese restaurants and Chinese doctors. It was all right amongst the whites going in but the Chinese had trouble amongst themselves. There was two towns, they called them, and one town would get in for a fortnight and they would speak him. There was quite a few shot, one of them in this building right behind here.

Jul: I remember, during the war, there was a Chinese man lived just above you here and he had a service flag in his window, I don't know, I would have had ~~about~~ about seven stars on it.

Mrs: That was false or far as sons was concerned. He had one son and I questioned him about the sign, the stars in the window, and he says they were his cousins. All of them. But it was real weather to get patients in for his doctoring.

Jul: What was his name, do you remember?

Mrs: No, no, I can't remember his name. I know him awful good, right next door. He went to making shirts and he quit the shirts and went to the doctoring. I asked him why he would for the doctoring and he

said, "Well, there's so many people sick" and he knew he could help them so he went to the doctoring to help these people. (Laughs)

Jul: Well, he was an herb doctor, wasn't he?

Yes: Yes.

Jul: Well, what else do you remember about those days?

Yes: I could call nothing special. Except farmers ~~land~~ would come to town ^{then} those days and ~~they'd~~ ^{maybe} ~~bring~~ ^{bring} some ~~maybe~~ they'd bring up to \$2000 on them and they'd

usually leave it with a saloon at some place to keep for them and then start drinking and in a few days they'd be broke, go home without buying a pair of shoes or any clothes whatever. And as one said, had to go back and patch pants for another two years. (Laughs)

Jul: What do you remember about the strikes on the Hill was there a strike in the 20's?

Yes: Yeah. The strike in the 20's, I heard a lot about it, where the gang would go around to the ones that was working, to their houses, and try to make trouble and try to get their voices out and talk to them and I heard so much about it that I joined the crowd one night. But I stayed ^{at the} back and they went to a house and called them many names and this, that and the other.

Trick to get them out. They didn't do no damage otherwise to the houses.

Jul: Just intimidation.

Yes: Yeah. I had a better memory any names. Spent O'Brien was the head of the gang. It was his brother that was in the Treasurer's office, Kumpback. Did you remember him?

Jul: No, that was before my time.

Yes: No, I don't think this was.

Jul: I didn't come here until 1940.

Yes: Oh, yeah. That was before - about your time, yeah.

Jul: Well, then, you saw the strike in 1934. That's when the union got reorganized. They did a little damage

that time.

Max: Yes, they did, yeah.

Jul: Did you see any of that?

Max: No, I didn't see none of that.

Jul: I think they usually got some cars or buses then, things like that. Well, when was that near shop or

of Amesbury Road? Do you remember?

Max: When was the shooting? They didn't shoot anywhere.

Jul: ~~It~~ I recall in '34 but sometimes there was a man shot up there.

Max: I can't recall that.

Jul: Well, let's see, that was a rather long strike in '34, wasn't it?

Max: I can't remember too much about that.

Jul: And then there was a strike in 1946, that was the bad one.

Max: Yeah.

Jul: I guess they got enough violence in 1946. You haven't been anything of that sort since.

Max: No.

Jul: Did you ever get interested in politics in Bolton?

Max: Not much. I was always too busy for politics. I worked long hours in the shoe shop. She appearing was very small wages and the only way you could make a living was to put in lots of hours.

Jul: Was there a streetcar line in front of the shop, Rose.

Max: Yeah.

Jul: How often did the cars run? Weekly?

Max: Well, in the summer evenings, going to the gardens and the lake, they would probably run every five minutes and the regular run was hourly minutes. For most all lines but like going off shift from the stores and the mines, they would double up. Make it every ten minutes. For an hour. Lots of people riding the streetcars those days. The men and women walking by here would be there every day. The streets was just

fall, four abreast, going up and down the street. The depot was all on the street and, all four of them, and it was quite an attraction to go down and watch the trains come in. Some of them walking for pleasure, others back and forth to work and there was lots of shopping done on Arizona Street then days. I rode in my first car when I was seventeen years old. That would be 1910.

Jul: What kind of a car was it?

Mari: I could tell you what make it was. It was the old high wheels. My doctor owned the car and he said we on the street and he give me a ride home. That was my first ride and all the time I was walking in the wires I had one ride up the hill. One of the electricians had a Ford coupe that he'd made over into a little truck, what it was his or the Company's I don't know, but he stopped and give me a ride to work one. That's the only ride I ever had going up the hill.

Jul: You walked all the way?

Mari: Everybody had to walk, yeah.

Jul: That was quite a walk to the Granite Mountain. Or even to the Quercus.

Mari: Yeah. We lived in the 600 block on Dakota or Colorado, in there, so it was it quite a walk. You could take the streetcar from Park and Main, that was about as close as you could get one, you could take it up to a little way on the Quercus Road. It was too short to pay to get on.

Jul: How about the theaters? Did you used to go to the theaters at all?

Mari: Yes, of course you used to all of the theaters, time to time. One theater was on Montana Street, about where the Shanty is now. I forgot the name of it but I used to go to that quite a little. You there was several moving picture shows ~~at~~ shows, one on the Flat, East Park and several upstairs and then there was the Broadway Theater

and the Empress Theater.

Jul: What did you go to see, stage shows?

Max: Yeah stage shows and vaudeville. In them days, like Ed Byrne would put on a show and Charles the Greenwood and different actors at different times.

Jul: Did you go to the first movies?

Max: First movie I went was in Spokane. First one I saw. I can remember when the first movie came, To Rome men, which would be about 1905 or '6.

Jul: When did the movies become good entertainment?

Max: Well, after the sound came in is when they got their best, when they got color and that made them good. The picture shows them dogs, most of them, had plays pictures and that was it.

Jul: They just raise some ~~beds~~ to pump the organs, the piano.

Max: Well, I didn't see nobody around. I don't know whether they did or not.

Jul: It worked automatically?

Max: I imagine it did,

Jul: Well, what else do you think of?

Max: I can't think of anything that would be interesting.

Jul: When did they build Butte High over here? You were ~~there~~ here then, weren't you?

Max: Yes. Yeah, I was here long before Butte High was built.

Jul: Wasn't there a stable in there before that?

Max: Yeah. There was several stables in there. One year there was an overnight come to town and he put up a big tent and had tent meetings, very well attended. He was here a few days and they say he left with \$1500. ~~He~~ It showed a picture of him in the paper carrying a little bag, the money bag, said \$1500 on it and they thought that was pretty big money to get them days and there was a saloon down on Gold Street, on the corner of Main and Gold.

and the most of the people went by it to go to the tent meeting and the man that ran it put up a big sign, "After a big sermon go to Bullie Davis." (Laughs)

Al: He probably did pretty good business, too.

Max: Yeah, I suppose. I never was in it. His name was Skendin.

Al: There were a lot of bars then, wasn't there?

Max: Yeah, lots of them, yeah. But they closed all midnight ~~there~~ days.

Al: Were they open Sundays?

Max: I can't remember. I was never a drinker so I

Al: What was the general reaction when Prohibition started? Did people usually forget it?

Max: Well, I suppose there was lots of alcoholics that I know several that when Prohibition started they refused to take a drink. And I know one man, he was a sign painter, an artist, ~~and~~ ^{that} I know ~~he~~ ^{well} and I didn't see him for a couple of days after the Prohibition started and I took him a bottle of whiskey to see a favor, even to his room, he was in bed and he refused to have anything to do with it. He died in a couple of days. From not having his drink.

Al: A lot of respect for the law, then.

Max: Yeah. Well, he said Prohibition was on so he was on with it. He would have tapered off and lived a long time but refused to take a drink.

Al: But the bootlegging started pretty quickly.

Max: Yeah, there was many stills throughout the country, in Texas and around the hills. I know one man, a

Polishman came in and he says, "I don't see Goldie Fitzwilliams around any more" and I said, "He's out to the ranch." "Out to the ranch, what kind of a ranch has he got?" I said, "A two-hundred gallon." (Laughs)

Al: Did they find any around this neighborhood?

Max: Still? Not that I know of. One skunk and I know had a shoe repair shop and he had a little still, a

of wash
has barrel, i.e. the kerosene barrel he was a driver. He
drank most of it himself. Most of it and all the wash
before it was distilled. There was one man delivering
whisky for the different makers, whisky and home brew,
and he got by with it for a couple of years. Done good
but they found out afterwards that the Federal didn't
bother him because he'd told before the stills was to
pretend himself and after they got them all, then they
pinned him. And he went to jail. (Gampfer)

Pat: That wasn't fair, was it?

Max: No.

Pat: Judge Boutguin was pretty hard on these people,
the bootleggers.

Max: Well, he was but it seemed like the jury, when
the jury had the say, would turn most of them loose.
There was very few that served much time.

Pat: What effect did the second World War have in Reno?
~~Max:~~ The raid on Reno?

Max: Any time there's a war, Butte was good because
they needed the copper and put lots of extra men to work.
When I worked in the mines there was thousands of men
working in the mines in Butte whose todays are now
will do probably a hundred men's work of them days.

Pat: It was a tough life in the mines, though

Max: Well, it was. I liked it all right. There in a
while you'd get a bad place but you just quit and
minded the next day until you were satisfied with the
place you had. Of course the longer you worked at a
place the better it was. You know what there was to do
and how to get around.

Pat: Well, if the boss liked you, if you were a steady
worker, the boss would help you.

Max: Oh, yes. Yeah, I used to work at the Nevada one
time and I was up in a stoppage laying track with a
partner and we needed a jackhammer to drill and break
a boulder and I went out to the station and got one

and I was carrying it in and with my artificial limb I was limping a little bit with the heavy jackhammer and the shift bar was coming out when I was going in. He stopped and asked me what was the matter and I told him that I had an artificial limb. You he told me all about when he got hurt and I went in, went up in the slope. About an hour a man come up and said the bar wanted to see me. I said, "What does he want to see me for?" And he says, "I don't know." I went down and I found the bar and I asked him what he wanted. He says, "I got to thinking about you up in that slope, climbing them ledgers and he says, "You can't do that for me." I says, "Pssh, ^{well} sure I find." "No, you're not find but stay on the side." So I says, "What'll I do?" He says, "If I catch you doing anything I'll fire you." (Laughs) I says, "Well, the Quintana Foreman's around every day ~~every~~ night and I'll see me." He says, "Well, if you haven't been here long enough to duck him, why, you'll have to put up with him." "Course, in a while, like I'll be in there and when he get down to five, why, I'll go on in to seven. To escape him. And I stayed three days and quit. Couldn't take it. All the other bars I worked had for and everything was fine. I was on a motor, my partner and I, pulling 500 cars a shift, which was awful big. I can tell one story. When I first went to the ~~Star~~ Granite Mountain to work I got on the day shift and the bar told me when to go and when to work with. The man's name was Jasper Herne. Different ones I knew on the station before we went down asked me when I was going and I told them I was going partners with Jasper Herne. I didn't know him and they says, "Well, you'll have a good partner. You won't have to work too hard." So I went down and found where I had to go to work and Jasper says, "Well, you've got a tough place." He says, "There's lots of work here." And he went on explaining what we'd have to do, which was probably two or three days work.

2 says, "Well, well better get going if we've got all that to do." He says, "No, we'll take five and think it over." After a half an hour, "Let's get to work." "Oh, well take five yet."

And when the shift was over we was still taking five. The shift boss came around in the middle of the afternoon and Jasper says, "What's the matter, wasn't there a night shift in here?" He says, "Yes, it's on the book where the night shift was here and done so well." And Jasper says, "Well, they never done nothing," he says, "It was just the way we left the day before." He named over what they'd done or what he done. He seemed to get by with it good. All these it to some people. They'd build up all kinds of deluges. (Laughs)

Was: Yeah. But I was only with him a short time. Then I was back working again. They put me pumping in a mine, they called it. ~~There was two~~ now in the mine and I ~~was~~ would haul up to show ~~all~~ everything they worked. Well, I'd worked in mines so I know what they worked and that didn't need to tell me anything. Only how much powder they wanted. And how many primers. Any time they worked a post or lagging it was on the rope. Just reach and get it. When they was drilling I would make timber and everything that they worked so I had it right there. I had to go get powder. The Spec had many shifts, all ways. Had to go quite a ways for powder so I'd turn the sifter so I could find my way back and I'd get the powder and come back and somebody else had come along and turned the sifter on me and I'd have a time finding the place where I was working. At the end of the week, I was working for \$4.75 a day and they was making \$25 a day apiece. They give me \$5 out of their check for sitting on them so good. They both died in their thirties, early thirties. From working too hard, in bad air in a mine, you know.

Al: Dink.

Was: Yeah.

Al: That was real drilling, though, in those days, wasn't it?

Mar: No, not —

Jul: Was it dry sailing?

Mar: Dry sailing, yeah. They had the water ^{Playerns} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~give~~ ^{give} for lights, the stops and raises was all dry sailing.

Jul: How did you raise the tinker, did you have a motor?

Mar: In these raises, you mean? Yeah, you had a little motor that ran by air. If had to be air or electricity because you could run gas machinery down in the mines. Little air engine and a rope and a little skip on it to put in the tools and tinker and raise them up. I'd raise the man up, back and forth, too.

Jul: In this little skip?

Mar: Yeah. One or a time but they didn't come down during the day. Got their dinner up there and everything. And, of course, all that shortened their life. They used to feel sorry for me working for such small money while they were ^{was} working so big. That was awful big then days but they worked awful hard.

Jul: And you were down in the clean air.

Mar: Yeah and still kissing. Yeah. Sixty-five years later.

Jul: How about the beggars, ^{raise} ~~they~~ ^{raise} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~and~~ ^{and} those people, did they live in the hovel?

Mar: Middle class I don't think did but shooting course did. I know for very well. Rough talker.

Jul: She was the one that was always in trouble with the police, wasn't she?

Mar: No, she never ~~was~~ ^{over} that I know of, in trouble with the police. No, she wasn't in trouble with no one. She was a ~~crack~~ ^{crack} and I won't say this again. (Laughs)

Jul: Go ahead and tell it. It's too personal I'd cut it out.
Mar: Well, there was a fellow worked at the Montana feather, a young fellow, before she brought her shootings and got well acquainted with him. He'd ask Louis or Arizona Steel about one of the restaurants next to the shop. Shooting Louis come along and saw him going in and she hurried up and went in behind him. The restaurant

was full of men. She used in and she says, she called this young fellow Philly, she says, "Well, Philly, you got me pregnant, what are you going to do about it?" (Laughs) Before all the men. And that one has type of fun.

(Laughs)

Pat: Yeah, that would be something. I suppose you were familiar with quite a few of the characters around town?

Max: Oh, yeah. Colonel Buckets.

Pat: What was he like?

Max: Well, he was a man that could hit the road or write and had worked around the neighborhood when he was young. That is, ten, eleven, twelve, I think he told me he started at nine. He was away from his parents. He could spell his name but he could not write it. When the horse tractor does pass us on he would get somebody at the track to print him a bid at the winners, the dogs, and had all them at the track. He made pretty good money at it. I suppose things had made money at but he was a man that could get by good. He kept well ~~secret~~ ^{secret}, very tight-lipped. I know he'd come into the store one day and he says, "Will you ring five Murphy for me?" At the Green Station. And I looked up the number and rang it for him and give him the reason. He got five and he says, "See, this Bruce, down to the Board of Trade. The reading Buckets up. Give him a few shifts work when he comes up." (Laughs) So he used up and Bruce give him the job. That was his method of getting by.

Another character in the real legit district, in an old shack, I forgot his name, his last name. She was another character known as Nigger Fig. She was a Doctor or - what do you call those damn diseases?

Pat: Venereal disease?

Max: Yeah, Doctor of Venereal Diseases. She had an old cabin with a dirt floor and smoked a pipe and when she got any customers I don't know. But (Laughs) it was quite a sight. Her place. Had a sign out, I think her name was Wagner, Missy Wagner, Doctor of Venereal Diseases.

Sub: What was your Murphy like? The cop.

Mari: He was a man that could control things. These people could hit you with what they do today if he was around but, of course, the law would hit them. He was a real team player. He was free. He could punch anybody and do whatever he wanted and get by with it. He could make a man cough up anything he knows. He was just so tough. Joe saw him many times on the street pick up a man and the man try to talk to him and, boy, when he get through talking he would just walk. I know one time there was two fellows coming up the street and one answered the description of what he wanted and he stopped and had him get in the car and the fellow get out and said, "Well, that fellow didn't do nothing. He's not guilty of anything." "Shut up, you son of a B or S! I'll take you too." The man come in to me and he says, "Where's the Police Station?" I told him where it was. He says, "I'm going up to see the Chief of Police." I says, "Well, that was the Chief you was talking to." He says, "Well, I don't want to see him." He says, "I don't want nothings to do with him." So he was that powerful. I see him one time when they was a gang, I think they was called the I.W.O.s, they was gauged up over on Main and Murray and probably 50 or 75 in the gang. Joe Murphy come along in the car. He was dressed. And he looked out, "Seatman, you sons of B's, scatter!" And every man would be away, ~~away~~ all directions. I think no man would have that power today.

Sub: Not at all. I suppose you used to see Lewers.

Mari: Yeah. Lewers? Something about him over in the Mining Museum. And "Beams."

Sub: Who was that?

Mari: I didn't know much about Beams.

Sub: I don't think I ever heard of him.

Mari: Another character called Murray Hank. Joe saw her but I didn't know much about her.

Jul: What was she?

Mari: About the type as Shortwing Annie. Naked Annie, she used to work up about where Kinnison's place is, that corner there. "Give me five cents, give me five cents." Another good story, I don't know too that. (Laughs) Too prominent people involved. Yeah, they would be glad to have me tell it but they're dead and I would tell it. Jim Finlow was a fun marker.

Jul: Well, he's long gone.

Mari: Bud his son is still living in Florida. I was taller - well acquainted with that family.

Jul: Well, how about "Fal Deal"? Do you remember Fal Deal?

Mari: No, I didn't know him.

Jul: Was this street paved when you moved in here?

Mari: Cobblestones, paved with cobblestones.

Jul: How granite blocks.

Mari: Yeah. The reason for that is if give the horses, the calks on their shoes, a good hold. They could pull a good load up where if it was paved smooth they would be slipping, anytime with the cobblestones when they put their foot down it stayed put.

Jul: And you had to have calked shoes in the winter.

Mari: Yeah. I think they used them pretty much the year around.

Jul: I suppose they did, yeah.

Mari: Shorter calks in the summer.

Jul: Well, let's see. When you came here were they still using horses on the fire engines?

Mari: Yeah. Across the street on the corner, that was a Fire Station. The horses was there and when the bell would ring the old horses would get all excited. Get them hooked up and away they would go on a load near the fire's jump. Just toward that way or took it on their own.

Jul: Were they big horses?

Mari: Big horses, yeah.

Jul: How many teams did they have there? How many pairs?

Man: I think there was three horses to a fire engine. A fire engine and a load wagon.

Jul: So you'd have about six horses there.

Man: Yeah. When we were on the farm at Beldorado we kept in the winter of 1908. I was fifteen years old and I started out with a team to drive to Cheney, Washington I got as far as below Deer Lodge, and of Deer Lodge, and they had a party across the river there and there was too much ice for the party and not enough for the to hold up a team yet so I had to come back and I went by Minnerola. I went around by Philadelphia to Mineral and on to Superior. At Superior there was a big snowslide ahead. I could go no farther so I had to slip from Deer. I put my team and wagon in a box car and slipped over to Cheney from there. And on that trip one night I stopped at the old Nineteen Mile house.

Jul: That was out here, Carter Fork?

Man: Yeah. That was a real house then days, mostly.

I put my team up, had a good barn, feed them all the oats you want, all the hay you want and I had supper, a bed and breakfast and, ready to leave the next morning, went to pay my bill and the man says, "A dollar and a quarter."

Jul: Is that right?

Man: That's the truth, yeah. And while I was there, there was another man sleeping the same room I did, he was from Highland City. He'd found a midget, a huge midget, and he brought it in and he got \$1270 for it.

All the old gold price which was \$18-20 an ounce. He had used broke and was on his way back to try to find another one and stayed all night at the Nineteen Mile house the night I did. I was telling one of the strikers about that and he knew the man. Told me his name.

Jul: Well, I wonder if he got his money's worth.

Man: Like the real thousand it was. Then follows, when they left their money, ^{they} would bring twenty at a time and

probably got by for an hour with a \$20 bill and
wasn't satisfied with it was all gone and they was flat
broke.

Pat: Yeah, they had to treat everybody.

Max: Yeah, and they had to go broke. Slept in an alley,
I know one fellow came in the shop early in the morning
and he said he slept in the alley night before the shop.
God would ever used to sleep. He woke up there in the
alley and he had several hundred dollars on him ~~and~~
when he went to sleep and he still had it when he woke
up in the morning, and he couldn't get over it, having it
up. He didn't seem to be satisfied that somebody didn't
steal it. (Laughs)

Pat: Did you ever go up to Highland City when they were
raising those, plowing?

Max: No. I been up when the Skatons were still working
and a man by the name of Clarence Brooks was about the
last one I know of. I used to go up and visit him. He
had a great ^{arrastre} mine ~~there~~ ^{there} and he mostly great mines.
And he had an ~~arrastre~~ ^{arrastre} in the creek there and
would it out himself. Made a living.

Pat: A horse operated arrastra?

Max: No, the water.

Pat: Oh, water powered?

Max: Yeah an arrastra is just a big wheel in the solid
rock and then they put bigger wheels in with it and the
water turning them grinds up the ore that put in.

Pat: I never heard of that kind,

Max: Did it you? There's one up, you know where Spring
Hill is, going up to Georgetown Lake, there's one down in
the creek there. Well in, where they had it, you know, those
wheels would to see, only the rock basin.

Pat: I don't suppose at that time there was any power
mining still going on in Nevada gold or around
the creek. Was there?

Max: Yes, except during the big Depression. Lots of people

went out, to Montrose City and all the different places.

2 hours one man and his son, his son was probably twelve or thirteen, he went up to German Gulch and he was pleasing up there and ~~set~~ satisfied with anything they could get. To help out during the Depression. He come in and showed me a big rugger. When it had been worked and then the Chummen come in and worked after the white man and then he went in again and got this big rugger. He told me he stopped at the School of Mines and found out what it weighed. He told me but I've forgotten but it was a good big rugger. He was very well pleased. He had it worked up in an old tunnel in his ^{lunch} bucket, protecting it good. The reason it was ruined, I guess, it was too big for the equipment they had. It would not roll, see.

Ed: They were mining for coal.

Mrs: Well, smaller stuff, yeah.

Ed: What else would you during the Depression?

Mrs: That's when nothing would run. (Laughs) She was pretty hard times, but I managed to get through with it. Bread was. By cutting down before the Depression got started. Lots of them would ~~be~~ before they started to cut down. They was in bad shape. But I had \$1000 in the bank when the Depression started and I had it when the Depression was over. And I spent it quick when the Depression was over. For something to make some money with.

Ed: You didn't get into the Stock Market?

Mrs: No. No, I knew lots that did. They was going up every day and buying more to even up what they had. Well day it would be lower again. Have to buy again.

Ed: It's about now and I don't think we have enough ideas to start a new one.

Mrs: Nope.