

A 15 MINUTE TAPED INTERVIEW FOR MONTANA HISTORY

Montana History
Mr. Jim Harrington
Subject: Mining in Butte
Interviewer: Richard Fitzpatrick
Interviewee: Don Lawson

Questions:

1. Would you please tell me your name and what is your background in mining?

Response:

- A. Third generation in mining in Montana
- B. 35 years with Montana Bureau of Mines
- C. Miner, assayer in Butte, Jardine and Couer d'Alene, Idaho mining districts.

2. What can you tell me about the History of Mining in Butte?

Response:

- A. History of mining in Montana involves Butte
- B. Type of Mining
 1. placer mining
 - a. tools discovered made out of elkhorn
- C. Development of mining in Butte
 1. placer mining area
 2. hard rock mining-gold
 3. gold, silver, copper
 4. largest producers of copper at one time
 5. lots of techniques developed for mining throughout the world were developed in Butte.
 6. First electrified city
 7. radio bells, core drilling equipment
 8. deepest mines in the United States at one time
 9. Largest city in Montana at one time (120,000 people [12,000 miners])
 10. First oiled highway was in Butte
 11. First car of Montana was in Butte
- D. Mining will continue in Butte (100 years or more)
- E. Cost of mining and refining of minerals costs less today than years ago.

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April 22, 1991

I Richard J. Fitzpatrick release all rights to the tape I made doing an interview with Don Lawson titled "How mining plays a part in Butte and the state," for my Montana History class.


Richard J. Fitzpatrick