

SUMMARY OF TAPE M106 INTERVIEW WITH BILL EUGENE MYERS

April 13, 1990

Interviewer: Norman Meyer

Bill Myers father was a civil engineer who traveled during Bill's early childhood. From the mid-1920's until the early 1930's, Bill spent winters with his grandparents on their Green Mountain Ranch so that he could attend Buffalo Creek grade school. His recall of school, ranching with his grandfather, and all the stories told him by his grandfather, father and mother are incredible and wonderful.

Bill attended Randolph Macon Military Academy in Virginia and the Colorado School of Mines. His working career was as in the U. S. Air Force as a pilot, and after retiring from the Air Force, he worked for Northrup for ten years before finally retiring to Colorado. He served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. His wife, Louise Ablen Myers, also served in the army Medical Corps in World War II.

The listener is told stories of cattle ranching, including roundups, branding calves, and catching stallions loose on the range. The role the Government played in curtailing small cattle ranching by limiting cattle grazing on National Forest land is revealed. There are stories about Mr. Green's store, the ice cream parlor, old houses, saloons, and the train stop in Buffalo Creek in the 1930's. While dating, Bill's mother and father rode horses to Conifer to attend dances.

Narrow gauge trains that carried mail, hauled hay, and shipped cattle all stopped in Buffalo Creek near Mr. Green's store. There was also a passenger train in the summer that took passengers from Leadville to Denver. The mail train arrival provided a social gathering for townspeople.

There are other interesting and unusual stories passed on to the listener from Bill's family and some of the old timers. High graders were people who would hold up the wagons carrying ore from Leadville to Denver. They would then take the ore to Colorado Springs to sell. There were murders that occurred over the greed for gold. One interesting story tells of two early British pioneers who tracked a "bad man" from Brownsville, Texas, to Lost Park, and then settled there.