Overview of the Collection

Creator: Lumley, Ralph, 1876-1969
Title: Ralph Lumley Oral History Interview
Dates: 1964 August 14
19640814 19640814
Quantity: 1 item
Collection Number: Collection 0147, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary: The Ralph Lumley Oral History Interview is a typed synopsis of conversations and letters prepared during the summer of 1964 when Lumley was 87 years old. Lumley reminisced about his working career in the mines and the development of Red Lodge during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
Repository: Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections
Montana State University-Bozeman Library
Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT
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Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.
Languages: English
Sponsor: Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Ralph Lumley was a lifelong resident of Red Lodge. (Carbon County) Montana, where he worked as a coal miner from the age of 12 until he was 65. His father, Raddley Lumley, moved the family from Kalo, Iowa to Red Lodge in 1880 where he was employed as a coal miner. Settling Ralph, his mother, two sisters, and a brother in a log cabin, Raddley continued working at the Rocky Fork Coal Company and secured a job for Ralph. After his father's death, Ralph continued working for the company until his retirement, but he continued to pay dues to the United Mine Workers of America for the rest of his life. An amateur musician, Lumley composed several works of music that were never published but received some local performances in Red Lodge, Miles City, and other Montana towns.

Content Description
The Ralph Lumley interview is a typed synopsis of conversations and letters prepared by Minnie Paugh, Montana State College librarian, during the summer of 1964 when Lumley was 87 years old. In the interview, Lumley reminisced about his working career in the mines and the development of Red Lodge during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Persons mentioned in the interview include Martha Jane Canary ("Calamity Jane"), John Johnson ("Liver Eating Johnson"), and C.C. Anderson, the superintendent of the Rocky Fork Coal Company. Subjects include Native Americans who visited in the area, crime, and social conditions in Red Lodge.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The typed transcription of an oral history interview of Ralph Lumley was prepared by Minnie Paugh, Special Collections Librarian, Montana State College, in August 1964.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 January 28

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Child labor-Montana-Red Lodge
Coal miners-Montana-Red Lodge-Interviews
Coal mines and mining-Montana-Red Lodge
Crime-Montana-Red Lodge
Indians of North America-Montana-Red Lodge

Personal Names:
Anderson, C.C.
Calamity Jane,-1852-1903
Johnston, John,-ca. 1822-1900

Corporate Names:
Rocky Ford Coal Company-Employees-Interviews

Geographical Names:
Red Lodge (Mont.)-Social conditions
Red Lodge (Mont.)-History

Form or Genre Terms:
Interviews-Montana-Red Lodge
Oral histories-Montana-Red Lodge

Other Creators:
Personal Names:
Paugh, Minnie Ellen,-1919-2003,-interviewer
(creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009