

TAPE H-107 SIDES A & B
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH OLIVE HILL

Date: April 13, 1978

Interviewer: Margaret Bentley

SIDE A

Mrs. Olive Hill (b. 1902), a resident of Pine, CO, was the widow of Joe ("Bud") Hill (1896-1974), a rural postman, when she gave this interview. She took an active interest in her husband's postal work as a member and officer of the Women's Auxiliary of the Colorado Rural Mail Carriers' Association.

She gives a picture of the area's small family and fishing resorts of up to 25 cabins, served by a railroad running from Denver to Leadville with the main depot in Pine. She also tracks change as rail travel gave way to automobiles and people no longer summered in one place. She reminisces about the thrill of stepping off the small rural train and walking into Denver's Union station.

The Hills seem to have lived a comfortable and stable life both before and during retirement. There is no mention of children. They were able to travel fairly extensively. They visited Hawaii, Mexico, Portland, Alaska and British Columbia, and Wyoming.

SIDE B

She notes the important ice-cutting industry centered on Crystal lake and icehouses that employed a large labor force and supplied local resorts, the homes of town residents, and the city of Denver with ice before the invention of refrigeration. Besides ice, fresh vegetables and laundry were delivered to the door. The local store stocked anything else that people needed. Mrs. Hill opined that the old days were, in a way, better than today.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Colorado Rural Mail Carriers' Association researched and wrote the history of their spouses' mail routes. She relates her discoveries.

Mrs. Hill is a valuable source of information and insights about Pine from the late 1920s to late 1970s. She describes its beginning as a land grant and founding as a resort town by Charles Dake, a Civil War veteran.

She expresses pride in the Pine school and other local schools that prepared students to excel in higher education and in their later careers.

She reveals changes in residential patterns as (1) many retired old-timers converted their cabins into permanent homes and (2) Denver commuters moved to Pine.