

PAUL NARDIN & DOMINICA DALPAZ NARDIN

Paolo Celeste Nardin was born January 29, 1873 in the town of Faver, which was at that time, a part of the Austrian Tyrol. His parents were Bortolo and Lucia Nicolodi Nardin. He was the oldest of five children born to his parents. The others were Lucia in 1874, Giovanni in 1876, Luigi in 1878 and Tereso in 1881.

Like all young men of the time, Paul Nardin was conscripted into the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (1871-1914). Not wishing to make a career of the military he left and persued the trade of stonemason...in particular he worked on the Simplon Railway Tunnel.

Paul Nardin immigrated to the United States in 1898, going directly to Ouray, Colorado to work in the Virginius Mine. In March of 1900 he declared his intent to become a U. S. citizen in the Ouray District Court. During the summer of 1900 he was counted in the 1900 U. S. census in the Sneffels No. 10 District as a "miner of silver ore" and living as a boarder. Shortly thereafter, Paul travelled over the mountain and took a job in the Smuggler Mine above Telluride, Colorado. He stayed and worked at the mine continuously for 18 months and saved all his wages. It is known that he was working at the Smuggler at the time of the fire that occurred there in November of 1902. Whether he was laid off following the fire or simply quit is unknown. However, in 1903 he decided to purchase the San Juan Saloon and Hotel in Telluride. This was a small hotel located on the main street next to the Masonic Temple. The hotel was owned by Dominic Dalpaz, who also was from the Austrian Tyrol. Dominic's half-sister, Dominica Dalpaz worked in the hotel for her brother. Dominic had sent money to her to come to the United States. She made

the trip in steerage and came through Ellis Island in 1901. When Paul Nardin purchased the hotel, she continued working and shortly thereafter she and Paul Nardin were married. (October 23, 1903)

Dominica was 18 years old when she came to the United States; the only English she could speak being "please", "thank-you", "bread" and "water". She had a note pinned to her coat bearing her brother's name and address. She was so afraid of being rejected at Ellis Island that when she was given a small-pox shot (probably when placed aboard the steamship in Europe), she squeezed the serum out of her arm to keep from becoming sick. Upon leaving Ellis Island she rode the train across the United States to Ridgeway, Colorado meeting her half-brother there. She made the entire trip alone.

On July 20, 1904 Paul and Dominica Nardin's first child, Emma, was born and she was followed by William in 1906 and Esther in 1910.

On August 20, 1904 Paul Nardin became a U. S. Citizen. One of his sponsors for citizenship was Gio Oberto of Telluride. Gio Oberto was also a witness to the accuracy of the information needed to receive a marriage license when Paul was married.

Paul and Dominica operated the San Juan Hotel until around 1924 when they sold it. After the Miners Strike of 1904 the business was quite good and the Nardin's saved enough money to buy a large house on the hill on North Willow Street in Telluride, moving there about 1910. Prior to this time, the family had all lived at the San Juan Hotel. In the 1910 U. S. census they are shown at the North Willow address and the property free of a mortgage.

While Paul was operating the San Juan Hotel he was also dabbling in mining and 1912 found him prospecting for Radium in the "Spud Patch" area near Dove Creek, Colorado. He also leased and operated

the Butterfly Mine near Ophir, Colorado from 1912 to 1914. Paul had taken a partner in the San Juan Hotel about 1912 and was able to pursue some other interests. He purchased some land on Bilk Creek and Specie Mesa about this time. Family stories indicate that the "ranch" on Bilk Creek was actually a "bootlegging" location used by Paul's half-brother, Carlo Nardin.

In 1924 Paul and Dominica sold the San Juan Hotel and purchased another Saloon and building just east of the Pastime building on the main street of Telluride. They rented their home on North Willow Street and lived in a small house at the rear of the saloon. This property was later sold and now is the location of the Telluride Post Office. In 1929 Paul Nardin and Louis Munchiando were granted a Treasurer's Deed to the Nellie Mine and six other claims for unpaid taxes on the property. At some later date Paul Nardin became the sole owner of half of these claims including the Nellie Mine. The Nellie Mine was located up Bear Creek south of the Town of Telluride. (Gio Oberto had earlier been involved in the Nellie Mine also, losing a great deal of money there).

Paul Nardin continued to operate the Nellie until 1942 when the U. S. Government closed down all gold mines so that the miners could be used in essential metal mining during World War II.

During the years between 1903 to 1942, Dominica Nardin worked very hard raising a family, cooking and cleaning at the San Juan Hotel and later cooking and running the boarding house at the Nellie Mine for half dozen miners.

After Paul Nardin was forced to close the Nellie Mine, he remained in Telluride working as a janitor at the Elks Club for several years. In 1957 he and Dominica moved to Grand Junction, Colorado to be near their daughter, Emma Oberto.

Paul Nardin was a blonde, blue-eyed, hardworking, happy man. He was much liked and well respected by people in Telluride. He loved to hunt and fish and accumulated a sizeable collection of trophy animals. He went elk hunting every year up until his late 70's. He was always wanting to reopen the Nellie Mine and as late as 1956 was still trying to get people interested in going back up there.....one of these being his granddaughter's (Peggy) husband, Ed Lippoth who was a geologist. He was an excellent stone mason and built many "dry" rock walls around his home on North Willow Street in Telluride after he retired in the 1940's.

Dominica Nardin was a serious, hard working woman. She had had a hard childhood and gone to work as a small child herding cows in the mountains near her home at Piazza de Pine in the Tyrol. She came from a very large family of full brothers and sisters as well as an equally large number of half-brothers and half-sisters. She worked in a bakery and a coffee house before coming to the United States. Her family was poor and often there was not enough to eat. She never had any desire to return to the Tyrol.

Dominica learned about healing herbs from her mother and continued in this interest after immigrating. She liked to hunt wild mushrooms as she had done in Europe and she dried and canned many each year. She also did a great deal of crocheting and quilting. While Paul Nardin also enjoyed mushroom hunting, his real delight was in making his own wine. He always had homemade dandelion wine and ren wine to offer to guests.

Paul Nardin died at the age of 85 in Grand Junction, Colorado on February 6, 1958. His wife, Dominica, continued living in Grand Junction and died at the age of 92 on November 14, 1975.

Both Paul and Dominica Nardin are buried in the Montrose, Colorado cemetery. Their daughter, Esther Nardin Fleetwood, who died as a young woman, and their son William Nardin and his wife, Inez, are also buried in the Montrose cemetery.