

## Cecil Goldsworthy-OH7

1. Introduction to interview conducted by Chuck Upton. Cecil discusses when and where he was born, and his first job that he held at the Idarado mine in 1959. He was hired as a mill operator right out of high school. Cecil talks of typical miners. There were approximately 150 miners working during WWII. Talks about wages of various positions and describes what certain mining terms mean.
2. Cecil speculates on how a person would look for gold in the mines today. He discusses traveling from level to level through the mine to the Red Mountain side from the entrance at Telluride.
3. Cecil reveals the activity of “high-grading” that occurred with the miners. Talks of the miners digging crystals out of the mine. Large crystals, some as big as cars, which were found in the early days of mining.
4. Cecil comments on the problems that would arise should the Idarado mine be re-opened today. The process would take several years. He reminisces about some of the characters of Telluride who worked in the mine.
5. Cecil reveals his feelings about the tailings pond at the end of the valley. He discusses the complexities of the mining industry and its importance to the country.
6. Cecil warns of the dangers of people exploring the mines today. Hikers and jeepers should use caution when approaching an abandoned mine site. Most of the timber at first glance appears solid, but is most likely to collapse if stepped on. Many of the shafts are two to three hundred feet deep.
7. Cecil gives the history of the Meldrum Tunnel. It was originally started as a railroad tunnel through the mountain to Ironton Park, in Silverton. The project was never completed; however, it was later connected to the Argentine tunnel.
8. Cecil discusses how the Newmont Mining Company of New York originally owned the Idarado mine. Cecil speculates on the problems that would arise if the town would begin to do mine tours.
9. Cecil describes the town of Vanadium that was located by Silver Pick Road. He also explains that the mineral Vanadium was a steel hardener that was in high demand during the war. He discusses the mining that was conducted around Blue Lake and discloses the meaning of “grass roots mining”. He also talks of the engineering feat of connecting the tunnels from Telluride to Ouray.
10. Cecil mentions the pollution levels during the winters of the early years in Telluride. He remembers some of the happier memories of mill working and of the Christmas baskets that were given to the employees from their bosses over the holidays. Cecil tells the story of how the Idarado mine gave him a loan of \$6200, interest free, so that he could build himself a home in 1962. His payments were \$102/month.
11. Cecil discusses the role of women in the mines and mills. Most women were *nippers*, a term that defines the person who operates a small hoist which raises and lowers miners into tunnels and shafts. He recalls the few times men were left underground and how they would use the telephone to call for help.
12. Cecil describes the process of gold being extracted from the ore and made into gold sponges or bricks. He mentions the time a gold sponge was stolen from the mill before the process was even complete. Cecil also describes the processes of extracting lead, copper and zinc.

13. Chuck Upton concludes the interview and thanks KOTO's *Voices and visions* for sponsoring the program. He also expresses his gratitude to Cecil for allowing him to conduct the interview.