

Oral Interview Outline  
For  
Albert Bendzak

\*\*\*\* Feel free to write any notes on the outline.

- I. Introduction and biographical information. (Age, birth, occupation, ethnic origins, marriage and family.)
- II. A. What do you remember about your family history on your father's side.
  1. What are Stefan Bendzak's ethnic origins? ( Slovakia, no education but self taught- 6 languages and can write)
  2. Why did Stefan leave the old country? (conscription in old country)
- B. When and where did Stefan settle?
  1. Arrives in 1898. Lives where?
  2. What did Stefan do for work? ( Patrick's mine; bartender)
  3. What lodges did your dad belong to?
    - a. Discuss National Society Lodge
    - b. Stefan writes letters for others to old country.
  4. When did your father marry and whom?
    - a. What do you know about Elizabeth (Chemman?) Simon from Slovakia? Go into ethnic history of mother.

b. Married at Peoh Point c. 1916

c. Discuss Elizabeth's sisters and brothers.

d. Discuss Elizabeth's children (Steve, Joe, Albert, Mary Betty, Ann, Olga )

II. Describe what life was like in a Slovak family?

A. What holidays were important in Slovak families?

1. Blessing the food for Easter.

2. Christmas in January.

3. New Years and 1st footing. ( guns and powder set off at old Roslyn reservoir)

B. Describe old country entertainment in a Slovak family.

1. Songs, dances, instruments, bocce ball

2. Other-- Describe how children would have fun during winter and summer.

C. Describe Slovak recipes and gardening skills.

1. Cochinena

2. Wine making- 6 boxcars in Roslyn.

3. Lack of refrigerators

D. Other

1. Chores at home - picking coal;

2. English vs. Slovak at home.
3. Citizenship school.
4. Going to school in Roslyn and Cle Elum  
(Graduation in \_\_\_)

III. What did you do after you left high school? (Things  
apples in Wenatchee)

A. Discuss how the western Miner's strike  
influenced your life. (Hunter)

1. What is the I.W.W. ?

B. Discuss how the Great depression influenced  
your life.

1. Why you entered a CCC camp c. 1933.  
(Al is the orderly-key to cellar, 300 in  
camp; spike camp; camp chaplain, pay )

2. Condition of employment in Roslyn mines  
during the Great Depression. ( Al waits for 2  
1/2 years for work )

- a. Supt. Murphy- Al gets job in mines  
Aibert marries in 1936. (Family)

C. Discuss your coal mining activities at the  
Patrick mine

- b. Where Supt Murphy lives.

IV. Describe your coal mining life.

A. Describe your mining activities at No. 3 mine.

1. Jobs--track layer; Unit foreman and  
testing for gas

2. Geography of No. 3- depth 1,500 ft. below  
South Cle Elum; entries close to Lake Cle  
Elum; size of coal vein; distance from No. 9  
workings; ceiling covered with leaves?

3. Describe working conditions--Hard hats begin in 1936; close calls- trolley spring; pay and vacation benefits; medical care
  4. Describe mining methods- No. 3 Joy machine
  5. Describe closing of No. 3 mine.
- B. Describe your mining activities at No. 5 mine.
1. Describe the geography of No. 5 mine (vein thickness, depth, quality of coal, entry locations)  
Focus on surface building locations.-  
Can we have a walk about?
  2. Jobs and working conditions in No. 5- Unit foreman 13th East. "Babe" Ray Lewis as foreman; "Chief" Kloss  
Focus on miner's nick names.
  3. Discuss mining methods in No.5
  4. Discuss closing of No. 5 mine.
- C. Discuss your coal mining activities at the Patrick Mine.
1. Describe the geography of the Patrick Mine. ( no need for water pumps)
  2. Describe jobs and working conditions at the Patrick Mine.
  3. Discuss mining methods. ( no water pumps; use joy machine.
  4. Discuss closing of Patrick mine- Where joy machine went, surplus equipment.

D. Discuss your coal mining activities at No. 9 mine.

1. Discuss No. 9 mine geography. (Depth of mine; entry locations- 1st East )

a. Focus on No. 10 mine.

2. Discuss jobs and working conditions at No. 9- Machine runner helper; roof collapse and flood;

3. Discuss mining methods- Joy machines; delay caps;

4. Discuss closing of No. 9 mine. ( What happens to joy machines and surplus equipment.

5. Discuss closing of No. 9 and impact on community life and what a miner had to do to keep employed.

V. Discuss life in Ronald years ago.

A. How was Ronald influenced by the Prohibition Era?

1. Discuss the Ronald Still explosion c. 1927. (Falcon Hall; Pelligrini; whisky behind Roslyn Museum )

B. Discuss the impact of World War II.

C. African Americans in Ronald-"nigger hill" Black church location; Bill Shepardson

D. Business locations in Ronald.

E. Describe life around Lake Cle Elum.

F. Discuss your baseball activities

\*\* Anything to add not covered.

VI. Closing- Advice to young people; what new people moving to the area should know about the area's history.

Albert Bandura

Read the following notes on the following

information and biographical information. (Age, birth, education, ethnic origins, marriage and family.

A. What do you remember about your family history on your father's side.

1. What are Stefan Bandura's ethnic origins? (Slovakia, no education but self taught - 3 languages and can write)

2. Why did Stefan leave his old country? (conscription in old country)

B. When and where did Stefan arrive?

1. Arrives in 1898, lives in...

2. What did Stefan do for work? (worked in meat business)

3. What jobs did you get during his...

a. Director National Lottery 1948-50

b. Stefan writes letters for others in old country.

c. Director of Social Security for rural regions, 1950-1952.

4. What do you think you should know about...

a. What do you know about the work of the National Lottery? How did it help the country? How did it help the people?