

Oral Interview Outline for
Ernie E. Breznikar

** Feel free to write notes on your outline

- I. Introduction and Biography -- Birth, Where, How long in the area. Brothers, sisters.
- II. What do you remember about your ancestral family history from your father's side of the family?
 - A. Discuss father Anton Breznikar.
 1. Born 1876, April 23 in St. Rupert, Slovenia.
 2. What Anton did for a living in old country? (Austro-Hungarian army-took care of horses)
 3. Why immigrate to America? -Anton comes with brothers John and Joe
 - a. Have Julie show papers with ship and data on Anton's immigration. (La Lorraine out of Havre. Anton bought own passage; had \$10 on arrival
 - b. Anton arrives in 1904 at Ellis Island- Dad knows some English
 - c. Focus on Anton's lodge connections-SNPJ and Slavonian news paper Prosveta. (Ernie has a copy)
 - B. Discuss Anton's coal mining career.
 1. Anton works in the Pennsylvania coal fields- locate on a map- Mining town is Latrobe, Penn.
 2. Anton works in the Rock Springs, Wyoming mines.

3. Anton works in the mines at Red Lodge, Montana. Supt. Murphy influences dad to move to the Roslyn mines. Red Lodge mines close. NWI Co.

4. Anton works in No. 5 mine

a. Focus on working conditions (2-3 days work, black lung, Western Miner's strike & UMW. Bring out the kids work to take care of family after No. 5 closes.

b. Focus on African-Americans in No. 5 (Cravens/Hearts)

5. Anton works in No. 7 mine c. 1938

a. Focus on Anton's retirement and comments about the Pension Mine.

III. What do you remember about your ancestral family history from your mother's side of the family?

A. Discuss your mother Teresa Pavlin. Married in Red Lodge. 3 children (Ernie, John and Olga 1 died at Red Lodge)

B. Discuss the Pavlin old country connections.

IV. Describe your childhood years in a Slovenian family living at No. 5 mine.

A. Focus on your school years.

1. Describe No. 5 school and the homes at No. 5 (Ernie's 1st shower at No. 5)

2. Describe Cle Elum schools-5th and the trumpet took 1st in dist. track in 1943

B. Focus on recreation.

1. Describe your involvement with skiing. (starts in 2nd grade; ski jump at No. 5 and No. 7)

2. Describe your entry into the Cle Elum Ski Tournament.

3. Sleigh rides; bocci ball; Slavonian picnics

4. Going to Cle Elum to see the Tom Mix circus and his horse. Wants to be a tight rope walker.

C. Focus on old country customs in a Slavonian family.

1. Describe English vs Slavonian in the home.

2. Describe important holidays in the home. (Easter; Christmas; Labor Day; Halloween) *(May Day)*

3. Describe marriage and burial customs.

4. Describe how prohibition affected family life. (dad makes home brew; grapes \$34 a ton; Pacific Produce)

5. Describe home remedies in treating illness. (boiling wine to treat fever and caraway seeds; mustard plasters) Bring out medical care.

6. Describe family resourcefulness.

a. Vendor sell at No. 5 mine; Neiland's dairy

b. Raise chickens and rabbits.

c. Use of the woods as a food supply-mushrooms

d. Food preservation methods and recipes.
(Saffron flowers for chicken soup; rosemary herbs)

e. Money management on 2-3 days of work.

f. Ernie works summer jobs at No. 5 greasing cars

D. Focus on national events affecting the family.

1. Discuss the Great Depression.

2. Discuss WW. II.- Ernie drafted at age 17 in 1943. (Serves in North Africa; Anzio and on to Rome; met the Pope; plays at officer clubs; Benny Goodman; Woody Herman; Stars and Stripes interview; going to the Pacific)

3. Describe the ending of WW II.

V. Describe what you did after WW II.

A. Discuss your involvement in bands after the war.

1. Focus on Bertello's band.

2. Focus on the Music Makers band. (narrate his pictures at this point)

3. Focus on college and a music degree.

B. Discuss your work at the NWI Co. -delivers groceries.

1. Focus on the closing of the No. 9 mine in 1963.

C. Discuss life in Cle Elum after WW II.

1. JC Penny store operations.

2. Balmer Greenhouse operations

3. Safeway operations.

VI. Closing- Check to see if we missed anything. What advise would you give a young person in order to cope with the future? Lets assume someone is visiting or about to move to the local area. what should they know about their community?