

TAPE #14GLADYS SPINETTI

(The general topic of interview tonight will be the Fremont Mine. In Drytown. Date---20 November 1974. The place---Fiddletown, Ca. The questionnaire is divided into two parts---the biographical and the topical sections.)

My name is Gladys Hoskins Spinetti. I live at 314 Stacel St in Jackson and my phone number is 233-1507. I was born June 29, 1899. I was born in Sutter Creek.

(What was your occupation?)

I was a jack of all trades.

(What was your husbands name?)

Albert Spinetti. Born Sept 8, 1897. In Jackson. He was line foreman for PG&E.

(Where is the Fremont Mine located?)

About a mile and a half east of Drytown. I went to school there in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. I walked from school to the Fremont Mine for two years and the last year I went to school in an old surrey driven by Mr. Giannini from Drytown. We never broke down---only when the horse got tired.

(Did the Fremont originate from some other mine at first?)

The Glover Mine(?) was sunk first. The Fremont Mine was sunk after that.

(What part did your father have in the operation of the mine?)

He was foreman. From 1910 to 1918. He worked underground most of the time.

He had three shifts.

(Would you tell us the story about the picture showing the miners at the bottom of the mine shaft.)

The only mine I know of in the world that the sun shines down is the Fremont. It happened twice a year. In May and in August. And it only happened for two minutes. The men on the 16th level you could see very plainly. But the sun shone to the bottom of the shaft which was 3200 and was just as plain as day. I have a picture here you can all look at, and my father is on the 16th level with the sun shining down in his face. This was printed in Life Magazine many years ago. The photo was taken in 1938.

(During the August 1922, Argonaut disaster miners and pick-men helped with the rescue. What members of the Fremont Mine were there?) I was living in Amador City, and my Dad was working at the Eureka Mine at that time. Or, possibly, the Central Eureka. He was sent as a consultant.

(What did he do?)

They wanted to know about going down the Muldoon Shaft. It's right next to the Argonaut. They decided not to do anything about it.

(Why would you recommend that the Fremont Mine be marked with a brass plaque?)

Because of its history and because the sun shone down the shaft.

Also, eighteen men were burned to death in that mine. I can't remember the date but it must have been between 1900 and 1910.