

This is a story that happened many years ago.

My husband, Oral, and our nine-month old daughter, Oraleen (named after her dad) went to Colorado. My husband had a job working in a gold mine.

We lived in Twin Lakes in a four-room house and I was so happy there.

The owners of the house decided to sell. They gave us a really good deal. We would pay three dollars more a month with no carrying charges or interest. But my husband did not want to buy because he planned on moving back to Kansas City eventually so he moved us up in the mountains to an old miner's cabin for less rent. It wasn't winterized so it was cold even in October. We had no modern conveniences and only a little coal stove to cook on. There was just room to put one pie plate in the oven. We had only a fireplace for heat.

The first night we slept there, we had snow blow in all over our bed. Oral fixed that the next day by filling in the cracks between the logs of the cabin.

It wasn't long till snow covered everything. The mountains were so massive all around us. The little creek across the road was full and ran down the hill real fast. We got our water from a little stream about 100 feet from the cabin.

We were about a half of a mile from our only neighbor. He worked on a ski lift in Leadville every day and his mother was a teacher down in Twin Lakes.

The year Oraleen was two years old we went home to Kansas City for Christmas. We were gone for two or three weeks leaving the cabin with no heat. We should have stayed somewhere till our cabin got really warm but, of course, we didn't.

Soon after we came back from our Christmas vacation, Oraleen got real sick. We took her to a doctor in Buena Vista. He said she had pneumonia. He told us to call him if she became worse and he would come up to the cabin since it would be dangerous to bring her down to Buena Vista. However, we had no phone. The only phone was six miles away from our cabin in Twin Lakes.

One day after Oral left to go to the mine, Oraleen seemed much worse. I just walked the floor saying, "God, please tell me what to do." I looked out the window and there was Bob, our only neighbor. I never knew him to ever be home on workdays. I went out and called to him. I asked him if he would put the battery in the car. We had to keep it in the house so that it would not freeze. Bob came right over and put the battery in and put the car out on the road for me. He told me the road was real slick and to be careful and drive slow. I dressed Oraleen as warm as I could and took a big comforter with me.

I started down the mountain. The road dropped off to a creek on one side and then a ditch of about 12 to 14 feet down on the other side. I made it to Twin Lakes but I had a little incline to go up. The car turned side ways so I just said "God, you brought me this far. I'll try and walk the rest of the way." I was about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from my friends. I took the comforter and wrapped it around Oraleen and started out. There were a few houses along the way but no one lived there in the winter. I was walking in snow that came up above my knees and carrying Oraleen. When I got to my friends, I was so out of breath they thought I had walked the whole six miles down the mountain to town. They put me to bed and said they would take care of Oraleen. I felt relieved that at least we were down where there was a phone and friends to help me.

The doctor said for Oraleen's health we should move away from the high altitude.

Some friends from Kansas City were in Twin Lakes visiting their relatives and they had a small truck. We loaded our possessions in it and with our trailer we were able to pack everything and head back to Kansas City. We were mighty glad to be home.

Alice Hunsley
May, 1999

6-24-12

Dear Susan,

It was such a pleasure meeting
you and visiting about Twin Lakes.
My parents, Alice and Oral Glissey,
would have been so excited if they
could have had that opportunity.

The experiences they had in Twin
Lakes seemed to shape their whole
married life. They never stopped
talking about when they lived
out there.

If you want any of the pictures
that are in the book, let me
know and I can have some made
for you.

Hope you enjoy the book.

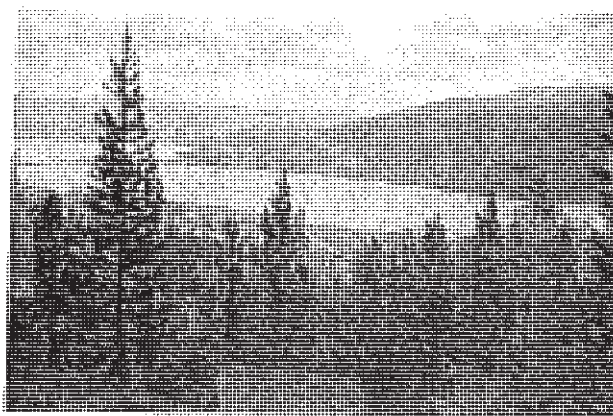
Kinda Carnine
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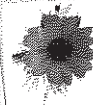
TWIN LAKES, COLORADO

MEMORIES

1938-1940

ALICE AND ORAL
GLISPEY





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TWIN LAKES, COLORADO

MEMORIES

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ALICE AND ORAL
GLISPEY

Compiled by:
Linda Carnine
1999

INTRODUCTION

I was born March 28, 1914. Alice Roberts (March 6, 1914) and I were married on July 23, 1934 when we were both 20 years old. Alice was going to help me get through college. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and my folks did not think college was necessary for me. Alice said I was more adventurous than the rest of my family. I was enrolled in night school planning to be a highway engineer. I was also working at Wards.

I got the idea I wanted to go to Colorado but since we had no money it looked like it would be just a dream. Then a friend found out that if I could buy \$100 worth of shares in a gold mine, I could go out to Colorado and work it out. That, of course, was another dream since I did not have \$100. My friend, Bob Fine and I would go to the mining office on the Independence Square in Independence, Missouri and we were told that if we worked off \$80 worth of shares (\$1 a share) and paid \$20 in cash we could go to Colorado and work for the Last Chance Mine. That sounded great to us so we would go to the office and they would tell us what to work on and then they would send it out to Colorado on the truck. After I had worked out the \$80 in shares and paid my \$20, we were ready to go to start our adventure in Twin Lakes, Colorado.

CHAPTER I

TWIN LAKES OR BUST!

Everything was set for me to leave with my friend, Bob Fine on July 17, 1938. My wife, Alice and 9 month old baby, Oraleen, were to stay in Kansas City. When Alice realized she would be left with no car, no telephone, and no money, she decided to go along. Her philosophy was that, "if we starve, at least we'll be together." All the other men were going along to find a place to live and get things settled before they were to send for their families. So I was not sure how it would work out to have my family with me right from the start.

So on July 17, 1938 Alice, Oraleen, Bob Fine and I left Independence, Missouri for Twin Lakes, Colorado. Alice held Oraleen on her lap all the way to Colorado since our 1935 Chevy coupe was a one seater. We stayed in Garden City, Kansas the first night because of a flood across the highway. The next morning we were the third car to cross the highway through the water. The second night we stayed in Buena Vista, Colorado. The next day, July 18th, we drove on into Twin Lakes. We stayed at a motel just below the lakes (Clear Creek Camp). Millers ran the grocery store. The cabin was about 8 feet by 12 feet. There was just room for a table, bed and a little monkey stove. A monkey stove is about two feet high and two and a half feet long and two feet wide. The fire box would just hold one small stick of wood. The oven would only hold a 9" pie pan. Alice had to stoop or get on her knees to work at the stove. We carried water from the stream running out of the lake. After we had been there for awhile, a larger cabin became available. It was not too much bigger but it did provide us with a little more space.

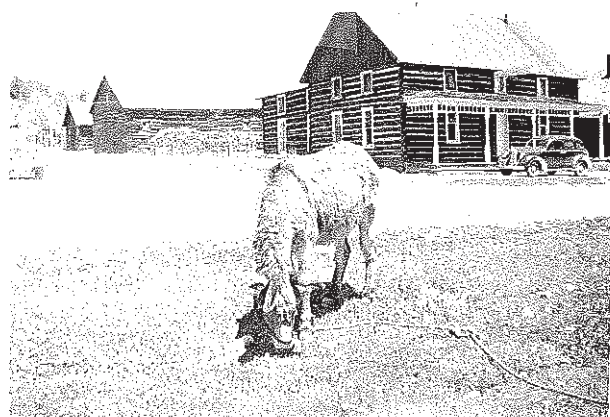
Alice had to wash on an old wash board and with a 9 month old baby you know how much washing there must have been. She

became the "Resident Baby Sitter". All the kids from other families in the camp came to our cabin during the day. Alice would entertain all of them by telling them stories and singing songs. The kids loved it and it helped Alice also.

We stayed at Clear Creek Camp about five weeks and then we moved up between the Twin Lakes.



Just a few weeks after moving to Twin Lakes, Colorado, Oral Glispey went to Last Chance Mine and carried down some ore. 1938



1939
Hotel at Twin Lakes, Colorado



Bill and Bob Fines' house in Twin Lakes, Colorado. 1939



1939
Just above Twin Lakes.



Golden Fleece Mine 1938



Looking down from tower site
in 1938. Twin Lakes



Looking up to Last Chance Mine
from tower site in 1938
Twin Lakes



The two story log building was previously the Red Rooster Saloon. It became our Twin Lakes Office for the Last Chance Mine. The building in back was our shop with the gasoline motor belt.

CHAPTER II

JOHNNY CAMPION'S ESTATE

In September, 1938 we moved up between the Twin Lakes to Johnny Campion's estate right by the canal between the two lakes. We got our water from the canal. Johnny Campion had made his fortune in gold. They have some of his gold on display in a safe in the Museum in Denver. The mansion had burned down but the servants' quarters were still there.

Ballards owned the place at that time. There were four houses and a stable for fine horses. We lived in a large house that the servants had lived in. We had two rooms about 24'x12' with a tiny closet. In the kitchen was an old gambling table. Alice wished we could have kept that. There were kennels and the large barn had two inch tongue and grooved lumber on the ceiling and the stalls were varnished. The stable was filled with antique furniture, an old horse drawn sleigh and old-time boats that were used on the lake.

Alice, Oraleen and I shared the servants' quarters with two other families. One family was Bill (Thelma) and Bob Fine with Bill's sister, Sis McGrew. Snell and Mildred Burk was the other family sharing the house. We had separate quarters but shared the outhouse. Bob and Helen Shirk lived in one of the other houses on the property and were privileged enough to have their own outhouse.

The other families were having mouse problems and they put out some kind of purple poison. We weren't having any trouble at all with the mice. But one day Alice decided to clean out a big wooden box in the pantry where she had stored quilts and such. At the bottom of the box, she found a big pile of food plus some purple poison. She called all the other families to come and get the food that belonged to them. Everyone laughed when they saw all of it but Alice ended up having to clean it all out. People out there

called the mice, pack mice. I don't know if that is the correct name for them or not. They were a little larger than a regular mouse and were light brown—about the color of a deer. They had big round ears kind of like Mickey Mouse.

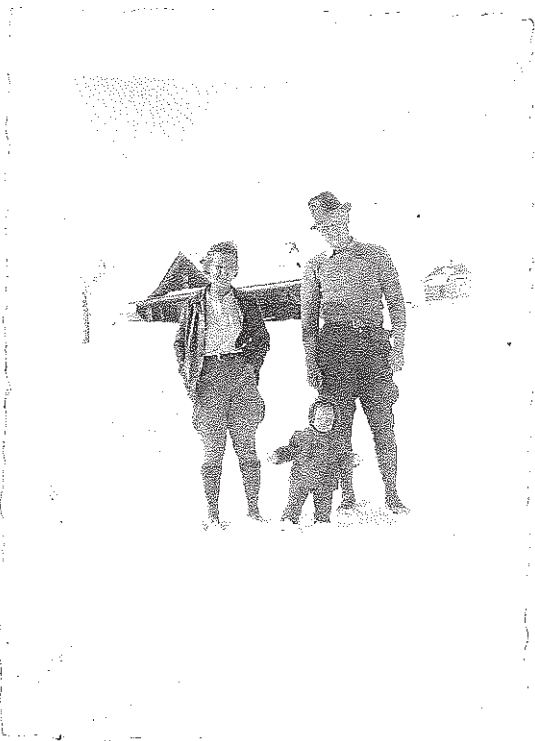
Washing was a really big job for Alice. I would have to carry in enough water for her to wash and rinse the clothes. She boiled everything also. You have never seen such a white wash! She, of course, had to wash on the wash board. One time Alice was hanging out the wash and a neighbor, Mrs. Ballard, called to her saying, "Boy, you sure are brave—it's 20 degrees below zero". Alice thought that they would just freeze dry but the next day when she went out to take them down, she had to break the diapers off. The next spring all the little corners from the diapers were still there. One time she washed a little rug and as she took it out of the basket the wind caught it and blew her and the rug up against the cabin. The rug froze immediately and she thought she might not be able to get out from behind it. From then until Spring, she had to dry the clothes inside. What a mess! She couldn't wring them dry enough so there was always water on the floor and that made the house even colder.

We were always paid by check but one day the men got a telegram. All the men went into town to see what it was. The women fixed a big celebration dinner because we all thought for sure it was our checks. But the telegram was to tell us that we were not getting our checks so we all had to be very careful for a while because we had used up so much of our supplies fixing this big dinner.

We cut ice on the lake and put it in the ice house with sawdust around it. Once Bob Fine fell in the lake and had to be rushed to the house to thaw out. Alice watched the white caps on the lake one day and fishermen had trouble getting their boats in because there was so much wind that day.

In the winter when the lake was frozen Alice walked across the canal with Bill Fine, her sister, Sis, and Oraleen. They took turns carrying Oraleen. They wanted to explore the old hotel, InterLocken. There were many rooms all about the same size (about 10'x12') each with a tiny closet. In the kitchen, the stove was as big as four regular stoves put together. There was a barber's chair done in red velvet and there was a safe. A dance hall was built on to the hotel and it seemed to be about 36' square. On each side of this room was a huge painted picture of mountain scenes. There was a 12" thick frame around each of them. Sadly, the pictures both had sustained some water damage.

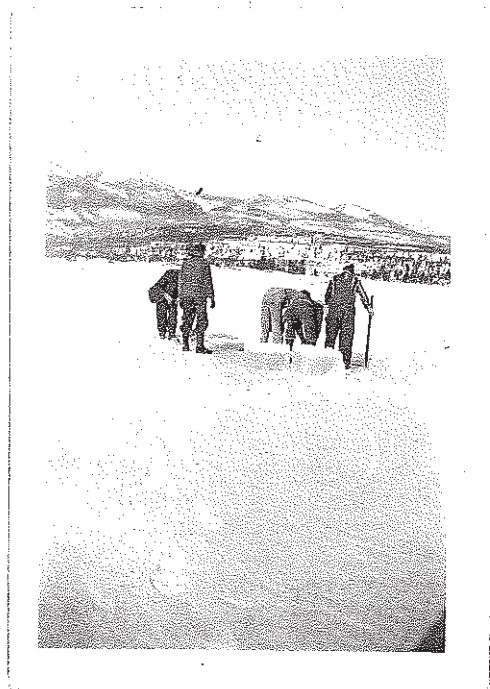
The old timers said that in the spring the ice would melt away from the shore and sink. It looked that way to me also because one day there would be ice and the next day it would have disappeared just like it had sunk.



Oral, Alice and Oraleen Glispey
in front of Ballard's home on Johnny
Campions estate in 1938



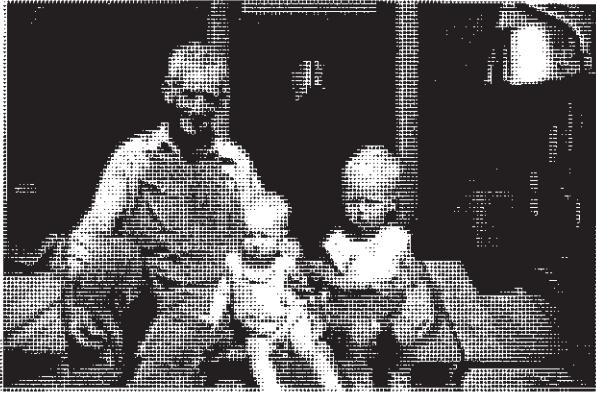
The hard working man! Oral Glispey



Ira Davidson, Bob Shirk,
Snell Burke and Bob Fine cutting
ice out on the lake. 1938



Bob Shirk, Snell Burke and Oral Glispey
with the truck full of ice blocks.
1938



Alice's dad, William Winfield Roberts, Oraleen and cousin Larry Bodenhamer visiting while back in Missouri for a few days. 1939



Oraleen in 1939



Oraleen and Lady (the dog) 1938.



Bill Fine holding Oraleen on Lake Creek 1938



Alice Glispey, 1939



Oraleen Glispey, 1939



Bill and Bob Fine; Oraleen, Alice and Oral Glispey; Sis McGrew; Snell and Mildred Burke; Mr. Resch in front of our home at the Johnny Campion's estate. The windows that you see were our living area. The trailer was the one we used to pull our belongings out to Twin Lakes. Lady, the dog on the porch helped to teach Oraleen how to walk.

CHAPTER III

MOVING INTO TWIN LAKES

About March, 1939, we moved up to the town of Twin Lakes, Colorado (population: about 25). We rented a four room house with a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms for \$12 a month. We had a fenced in yard for Oraleen to play in. Alice could walk to the store and pick up our mail each day. There was always someone with which to visit. When we moved into this house, we were told Mr. And Mrs. Blue had lived there but they had passed away. They must have been artists because they left lots of large paintings of mountains and streams out in the shed. We always wondered what became of those paintings. Today this house is owned by Sally Fletemier from Denver.

The Ryans had a large white house across the street from us. I think they had about three daughters. They lived there during the mining days. Each year all their relatives would come there for Christmas. After Christmas, they would close the house up and go to Colorado Springs for the rest of the winter. We got our water supply for drinking, cooking and bathing from a small stream that actually ran across the Ryans barnyard. The water came from higher up in the mountains but we always wondered about it crossing their barnyard and how sanitary it was. However it never seemed to bother us so I guess it was okay.

The Ryans had the only phone in town. Everybody had to go there if they needed to use the phone. When the Ryans got a call from relatives of people in town they would walk over and get them to tell them about the call and give them the number for them to call back.

An Indian died in his log cabin just across the road from us. They practically had to tear the cabin down to get him out. He had died lying against the only door into the cabin. When they finally were

able to get in to get him out, they discovered the place was full of all kinds of junk.

Mr. Taylor owned that house in Twin Lakes. He lived alone next door to us. We never did know whether he had ever been married or not. He had a black horse he called Black Beauty. Every Monday he rode up to his gold mine in the mountains. Most of the time when he would leave on Monday mornings he actually would lead the horse because he would have the horse loaded down with supplies and groceries to last the week. Mr. Taylor would let Black Beauty go when he reached his mine and the horse would return home and go into the barn. Mr. Taylor would work all week in his mine all alone and then on Friday afternoons, he would walk down the mountain to his Twin Lakes house.

Alice's mother (Blanche Roberts), sister (Lenora Lefler) and nephew (Wayne Lefler) came out to visit us for a few days. Alice took them up to Mr. Taylor's mine. Mr. Taylor took them back into the mine through the tunnel. It was pitch black with their only light coming from Mr. Taylor's miner's light on his forehead. Lenora got scared when she could no longer see the entrance and began yelling, "Get me out of here!" Mr. Taylor took her back to the entrance leaving Alice and Wayne in the dark. When he returned to them, he told them he had a pack rat that would jump on his shoulder and ride back to the entrance with him. If Lenora had known that she would not have gone into the tunnel in the first place.

Four women and Oraleen would meet at the store at 8:30 every Wednesday morning. They would hike, explore and have picnics in the mountains. Of course, Oraleen had to be carried. The first word she learned to say was "duck" because when they would go under a limb, they would all holler "duck".

Each woman would bring a bag (a 24 lb. flour sack) of food and they would walk and explore all day in the mountains. In the bag they would have canned food—sardines, salmon, tuna, crackers, onions, apples and sometimes cookies. Every hour or so they would stop and eat. One person would open a can of tuna or something and they would all eat that with crackers. After walking another hour, they would again stop and someone else would open something. They would come home with empty sacks. They walked until around 4:00 and just got home in time to make supper for their husbands.

They liked to explore abandoned cabins and houses. Once they found a house that all the windows and doors had been stolen. The floor was covered with “rat pills”. They scraped around and found lots of old letters. One was mailed to Custer’s sister about a week or so before “Custer’s Last Stand”. Another time while out exploring they watched a man cut down a tree. They were sitting above the tree looking down at the man so they knew they were in no danger of the tree falling on them. When the tree started falling, all the women yelled, “Timber”. The poor man was so surprised that anyone was even around—it scared him to death.

Alice has always been a very talented and creative seamstress. For awhile she made clothes for herself and Oraleen by hand. Then we bought a pedal sewing machine for \$10. We were going home to Kansas City, Missouri for Christmas and Oraleen was growing out of all her clothes. Alice sent to Wards and got several yards of material—.25 cents a yard. She didn’t buy a pattern because they were .25 cents each so she made up a pattern to fit Oraleen. She made four or five dresses. Bill Fine gave Alice a new apron that her grandmother had given to her. Alice made a cute little dress for Oraleen out of it. So when we went home for Christmas, Oraleen had quite a wardrobe and we were so proud of her.

Shortly before Oraleen's second birthday, Bill's dog, Lady, had four pups. Oraleen would get clear inside the doghouse with Lady and the pups. Lady would not bark and she would let Oraleen play with the puppies. However, Lady would not let anyone else even come close to her pups. Oraleen picked out one of the pups that she wanted. He was named Dumpy and became the family pet for many years. A whole book could be dedicated to him and all his accomplishments!

Our landlord, Mr. Taylor, then decided he wanted to sell the house that we were living in and he made us quite a good deal. He said instead of giving \$12 per month for rent, we could give him \$15 a month and the house would be ours in 20 months. That would have been a total of \$300 which was good even back then. There would have been no interest, no carrying charge and no down payment. I kept thinking we would be going back to Missouri before long because I wanted to be in Kansas City when the government would call me to the Post Office to work. I had already taken the clerk and carrier examination and if I wasn't living in Kansas City they would bypass me. Alice wanted to buy the house but I didn't want to fool with it since we wouldn't be in Colorado that much longer. I'm sure sorry I didn't listen to her.

On our fifth wedding anniversary (July 23, 1939) we had been in Colorado one year. The sun was just peeking over Mosquito Range to the east causing the shadow on Mount Elbert to start down passing Perry Peak and then the sun burst into the village of Twin Lakes. The explosion of bright light caused the rooster to start crowing. The sky was a dark blue—the same color as the lakes. It was a beautiful day. The night before I had dragged the galvanized tub in for our baths and, of course, we all used the same water.

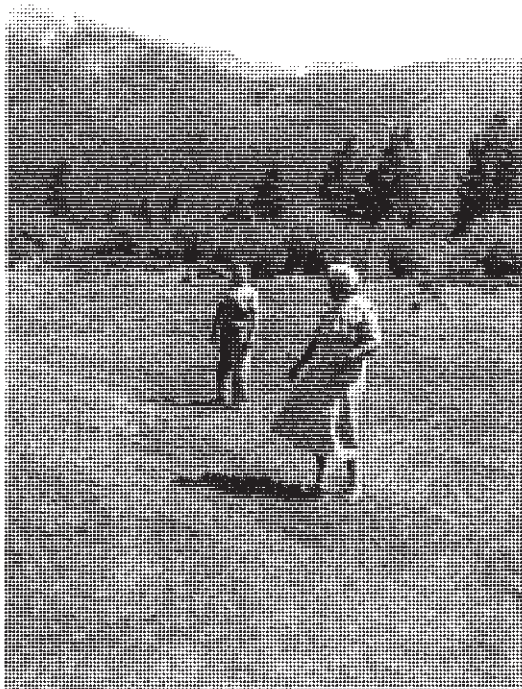
We had decided to go to Denver to celebrate our anniversary. As we left for Denver, we passed and waved to Felix Bushae strolling along with his dog. After arriving in Denver in heavy traffic (that we were not used to) we went shopping. The first item we bought was a pair of shoes for Oraleen which cost about \$7 (which was more than the cost of our shoes). We visited several museums, one had Baby Does clothes. I remember a diamond pin that was shaped like a butterfly. The setting was not visible at all, only the diamonds. We also went in a museum where they had all the animals from Colorado. I remember a little animal that looked like a small mouse but it had a different face which looked like a pig to me.

I got the idea that we should trade cars. I gave the salesman \$20 and our car to make the deal. Alice tried to talk me out of making this trade because it was going to cost it \$20 a month (we can't remember how many months we were going to have to pay on it) She finally succeeded in making me see that we couldn't afford to buy a new car. We spent the rest of the day trying to get the salesman to change it back. He finally gave us back our old car but would not give us back our \$20.

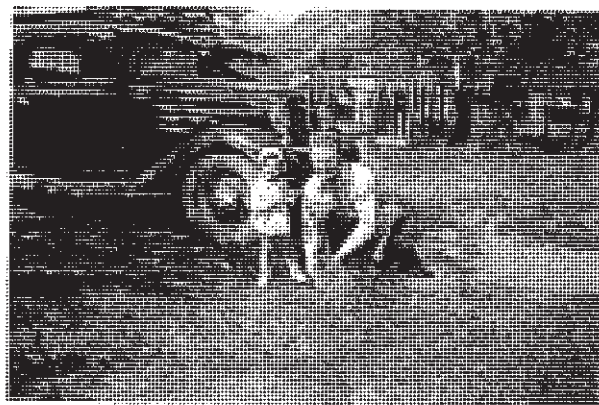
By that time it was very late for us to start back home to Twin Lakes but we started anyway. As we went over Loveland Pass we were getting very sleepy. Both of us would nod off to sleep as we were driving along. There were steep drop offs but each time one of us would wake up just in time and I would quickly jerk the wheel. Luckily I always turned it the right way. We tried to stop and sleep for awhile but then we couldn't sleep. It was a beautiful moonlit night as we struggled to stay awake and drive around these dangerous curves. Just as the sun was coming up I told Alice to go on and try to get some sleep. I thought I was wide awake by then. All of a sudden I woke up to us going over the cliff. I yelled to Alice to hold on. We hit a colvert and turned over against an

embankment. How lucky we were that we had gone over the cliff where there was an area that wasn't very steep. We could hardly get the door open but we finally were able to and we helped each other out of the car. We climbed up the cliff to the road not knowing what we were going to do. Soon a car with five men came along. They were on their way home from work at Climax mines. Alice and Oraleen got in the car with them and the men took them to Leadville where there was a tow truck.

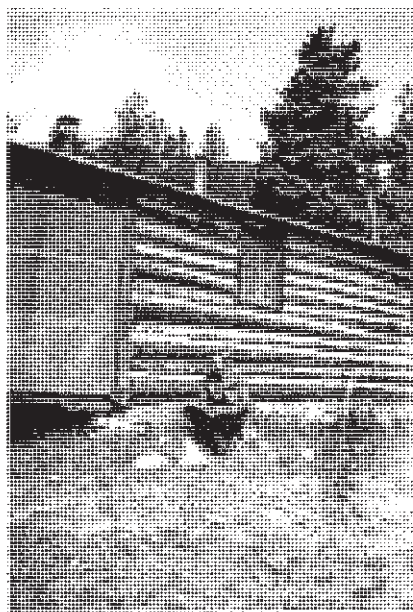
The tow truck arrived in good time and pulled the car back up on to the highway. The car wasn't damaged too much so I was able to drive it into Leadville and pick up Alice and Oraleen. We then headed for Twin Lakes. We decided Twin Lakes was much quieter and more peaceful than Denver. It was nice to see Mount Elbert and Perry Peak and all the Collegiate Range.



Alice and her mother, Blanche Roberts visiting from Independence, Missouri. 1939



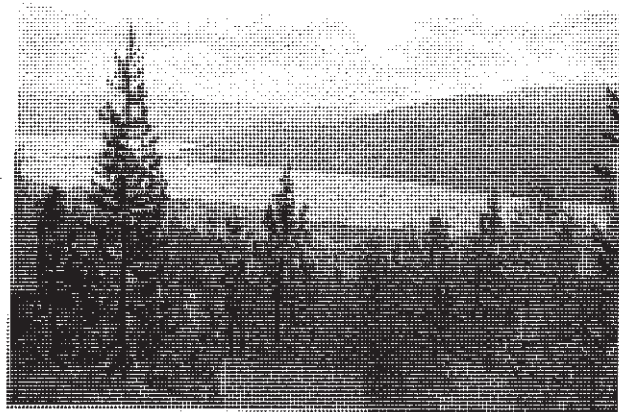
Oral, Oraleen and Dumpy (Lady's puppy)



Anna Callahan, Oral's sister visiting from Kansas City, Mo. 1939



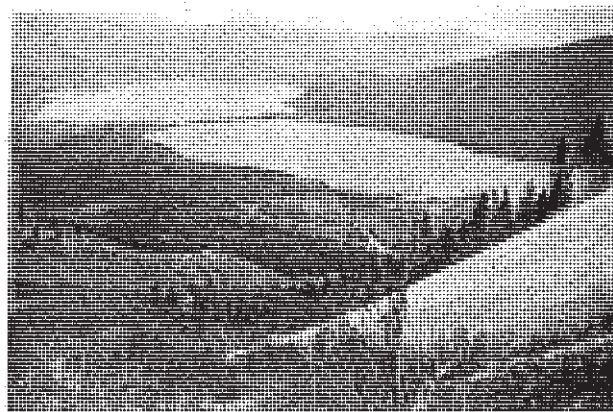
On Independence Pass above Twin Lakes, Anna and Tim Callahan.



Twin Lakes, Colorado 1939



Mr. Taylor's house at his
mine on Perry Peak. 1939



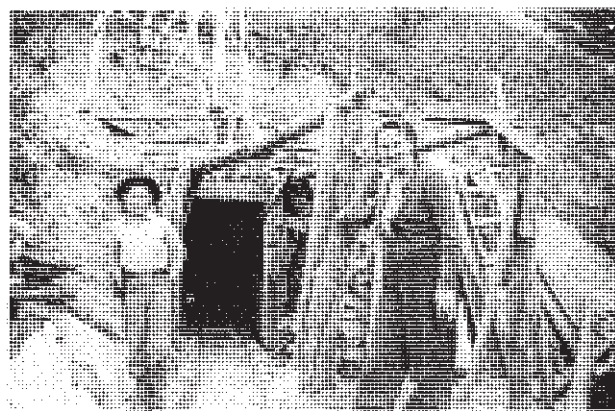
View of Twin Lakes from
Perry Peak. 1939



Twin Lakes seen from above at
Taylor's Mine on Perry Peak



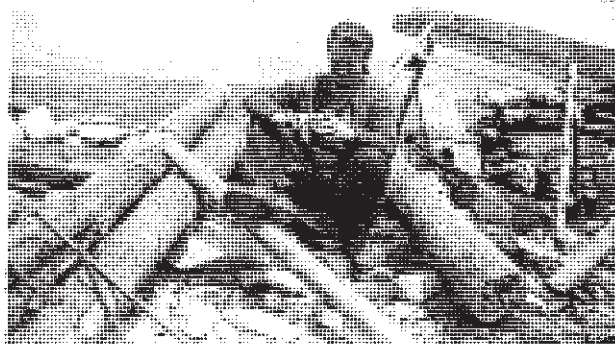
Alice Glispey at Taylor's
Mine on Perry Peak in 1939.



Lenora Lefler (Alice's sister)
and Wayne Lefler (nephew)
at Taylor's Mine.



Wayne Lefler. 1939



Lenora Lefler, 1939.

CHAPTER IV

A PROSPECTOR'S LOG CABIN

In September, 1939 we moved six miles up toward Independence Pass to an old prospector's log cabin. We paid \$7 a month rent. It was closer to the Mine and was on the road to Independence Pass (altitude: 12,095 feet). The cabin was across the street from Bob Rinker and his mother. The U.S. Government owned the log cabin and Bob Rinker leased it from the government and we rented it from Bob. We didn't know how old the cabin was but I imagine it was built there in the gold and silver boom. Fairly close beside the cabin was the foundation ruins of some kind of building. No one seemed to know what kind of building it had been. We had a nice mountain stream flowing by and that was our only water source.

There were three graves about 100 feet behind our log cabin. We had no idea who was buried there. One thing we do know is that they are at peace in a beautiful place.

Aspen, Colorado was about 32 miles from us on over Independence Pass. The road was gravel from 24 Highway to Aspen (State Highway 82).

The cabin had two rooms with only a 4x8 sheet of plywood dividing our bedroom from the main room. Our only heat was the fireplace and the cook stove (wood or coal). There was only one door into the cabin.

It snowed through cracks between the logs onto our bed one night so I had to chink them up. One day Alice heard a gnawing and she looked up to see a chipmunk sitting inside by the water bucket eating an apple. I found a large hole where he had gotten in and I had to repair it. One morning before going to work, I carried some water in from the mountain stream and spilled some just inside the

door. It stayed frozen for over a week. Alice had to warn anybody who came in not to slip on the ice.

Bob Rinker and his mother came out to Twin Lakes from Arkansas. As I would go to work each morning, Bob and his mother would be tearing down an old stage coach station to begin building a hotel that became the Mt. Elbert Lodge. The Lodge is still standing today and has been very well maintained. It is owned and operated by Laura Downing. Inside the hotel is a fireplace with a handcarved mantel by Bob Rinker. Mrs. Rinker taught school in the one room school house down in Twin Lakes. During skiing season, Bob operated the ski lift that was up above Leadville.

Bob Rinker married Lady Elsie from Missouri. Saturday nights he would have a dance in the log cabin behind the lodge. I would be in the loft and play a record player for everyone else to dance. Alice liked to dance and I couldn't.

Oraleen and Alice would entertain themselves while I was at the mine working. Oracleen enjoyed the stories and songs that Alice taught her. They also did all kinds of acrobatics. I made a little pen in the front of the cabin about 12'x12'. Oracleen and Dumpy played in there where Alice could see them. Once when Alice was sewing inside, Dumpy dug a hole under the fence and he and Oracleen got out of the pen. They climbed up on a little shed and looked in the window at Alice. It scared Alice so much because of the possibility of Oracleen being lost in the mountains. She would probably never have been found.

When I would come home from work on Saturday afternoon, I would carry water in, heat the water and then pour the water into a large galvanized tub that one of the men had made and left with us when he quit and moved away. Oracleen and Alice would take their

baths first and then I would take mine in the same water. That sure saved carrying in so much water from the creek! We just pulled the tub out into the middle of the room and poured water in it that we had heated on the stove. When we got through, I poured the water outside and hung the tub on a nail on the outside of the house. Then we would go to either Leadville or Buena Vista to get our groceries for the week.

We would mostly buy canned goods: tuna, salmon, stew, vegetables and fruit. We bought sugar and flour in large bags because when we would get a check we would have to stock up on supplies so we would have something when we didn't get paid. We had to use canned milk. Alice made her own bread (she hasn't baked bread since). We had to buy sugar one time at the Twin Lakes store and they charged 10 cents a pound, but in Leadville we could buy it for 5 cents a pound.

Our canned food was never more than 10 cents a can. Milk was 7 cents a can. Sugar was 10 pounds for 50 cents. Eggs were purchased in sacks. We did buy bacon. We used bacon and rice in many ways. Potatoes were one vegetable we bought. To have potatoes for supper, Alice would have to start them very early in the afternoon in order for them to be done in time for supper. We always had dry beans. Once in a while we would go to Buena Vista to a little farm and buy basic things like live chickens and rabbits. That was a real treat.

We never had deer meat in season. Whenever a deer was hit on the road or someone killed one, we would all share in it. Once while living at Clear Creek Camp when we first arrived in Twin Lakes, a man who was living in one of the other cabins came over and asked Alice if she would like to have some venison. Of course, she said yes and asked if she could buy more from him since we were having company for dinner. The man said he

couldn't sell it but he would be glad to give her more. That was a delicious supper. Another time when we had relatives visiting us, Alice fixed venison burgers and took them for a picnic. She warned our company not to say anything about what we were eating if anyone should happen to ask.



Front view of our cabin on Independence
Pass. 1940



Side view of our cabin on Independence
Pass. 1940 Notice the tubs hanging up
on the wall.

CHAPTER V

LAST CHANCE MINE

Working at the Last Chance Mine gave me many experiences. I worked five and a half days a week. Monday through Friday I worked from 8:00 to 5:00 and on Saturday, I worked from 8:00 to 12:00 I made \$15 per week.

We rode to work on a company truck each day. There was much work to be done other than just mining the gold. We built a rail tram and roads to the mine. We cut timber and sawed out lumber in our saw mill. We built buildings including a machine shop and the saw mill. We cleaned out old mine tunnels and put in new headers.

When we first got to Twin Lakes, one of the first things the men did was to build a metal machine shop behind the Red Rooster building, which is across from the hotel right in Twin Lakes. The Red Rooster building was our office but it had been a saloon years before. (It is now part of the historical area of Twin Lakes.) In the metal machine shop, all the machines were run by belts from one gasoline motor. We had no electricity. We also had a gasoline driven welder that I used.

One day at the lake we had the back wheel on the company truck jacked up and a belt running from it to a four foot circular saw, so we could saw fire wood. A snowshoe rabbit ran out of a pipe. Bob Fine killed and skinned it, then took it into the house. Alice saw all the blood and nearly fainted because she thought he had cut his arm really bad by the way he was holding it.

The fire ranger stopped us one morning as we were going to work and sent us to fight a forest fire which lasted several days. It was east across the Arkansas River from the Granite grocery store. The range of mountains was Mosquito Range and it was quite a climb

to reach the fire. The wind was so powerful it blew balls of fire across the tops of the trees like lightening. After the fire died down I had to carry a five gallon can strapped on my back and go higher up to put out little spots of fire. The depot name of Granite was changed by the Railroad to Yale. The reason it was changed is that there were several train wrecks caused by rock slides and some people were killed about a mile below Granite. The Railroad thought it best to rename that depot to Yale however the highway sign still shows the name to be Granite.

One day Bob Fine and I took our families up to the tunnel to show them how many logs we had pulled out of the woods with our tractor. We had to stack them several logs high with the bottom end out. We stacked the logs on a huge dump of dirt and rock that had been put there by the men who dug the tunnel and leveled the dump off. Before we felled the trees, a U.S. Ranger would come and stamp the trees with a hatchet-like instrument. He would cut a chip out of the tree with the sharp end then turn it over and hit the cut with the other end of the instrument that had U.S. letters raised on it. The Ranger could go through the woods and check to see that we didn't cut live trees that weren't marked with the U.S. print. We were allowed to cut dead trees. He would check the stacked logs for the U.S. stamp. Then he would measure the logs to see how many feet of timber we would be charged for by the U.S. Government.

One day we were eating our lunch by the stacked logs. We were expecting the Ranger. We looked up high in a mountain valley and saw him riding toward us on a beautiful horse. It was a magnificent sight to watch him.

Another day we took our families to the tunnel. We always liked to show them what we had been working on and they seemed to enjoy getting to come up and look everything over. There had been a

heavy snowfall. While we walked through the snow, we came up on a sight that looked like diamonds. It was beautiful the way the sun was shining on the snow and ice.

Once we were driving up the road east of town when mud and rock started rolling out of the trees along the road from a cloudburst up above. We turned around and drove back to the store and told Mr. Hofnagel who was the owner of the general store. Mr. Hofnagel was a widower and his son was the grader for the Highway Department. The son's wife was the postmistress for the Twin Lakes Post Office. The Post Office was in the general store which it is still located there even today.

Once a month all the families who were working for the Last Chance Mine met for a pot luck dinner. We took turns as to whose house we would meet in each month. The day after the dinner, all the wives and children would return to that home for lunch. They tried to finish up all the leftovers because we had no refrigeration and no way to keep leftover food.

We got together with Bill, Bob and Sis every Tuesday night and had brown beans, fried potatoes, hot rolls, coffee and cream pie. Whosever house we were in would make the brown beans because they would take all day to cook. They would also make the fried potatoes. Bill always made the hot rolls because they were delicious and Alice claimed her stove didn't bake them as good as Bill's stove. Alice would always make the cream pie but if they were at our house and Alice had cooked the beans and fried potatoes then she would have gingersnaps. We had a rule that we never washed the dishes. After dinner we would all sit around drinking coffee and telling the same old jokes we had been telling every week and laughing just the same.

One beautiful day as I reached into my lunch bucket for a sandwich, I heard a great roaring sound. When I looked up, I saw an avalanche coming straight for us. Fortunately it stopped at the river. It was quite a sight to see. There were boulders, snow, and uprooted trees tumbling at a very high rate of speed.

Arriving at work one morning, we discovered our acetylene torch and other tools were missing. We called the Sheriff in Leadville. He came down and looked it all over and said, "Next time shoot and then call me." It sort of sounded like the Old West. (An acetylene torch has a rubber hose attached to it and the other end is attached to a tank. It puts out a hot fire to weld and sodder.)

In the 30's when the Last Chance Mine (later became the Smith Bullard Mines) needed any tools or supplies we would go to the large hardware store in Leadville. It is the store that had all the animal heads mounted on the walls which is across the street from the Tabor Opera House. It is now an antique store. Alice and I bought our battery operated radio there.

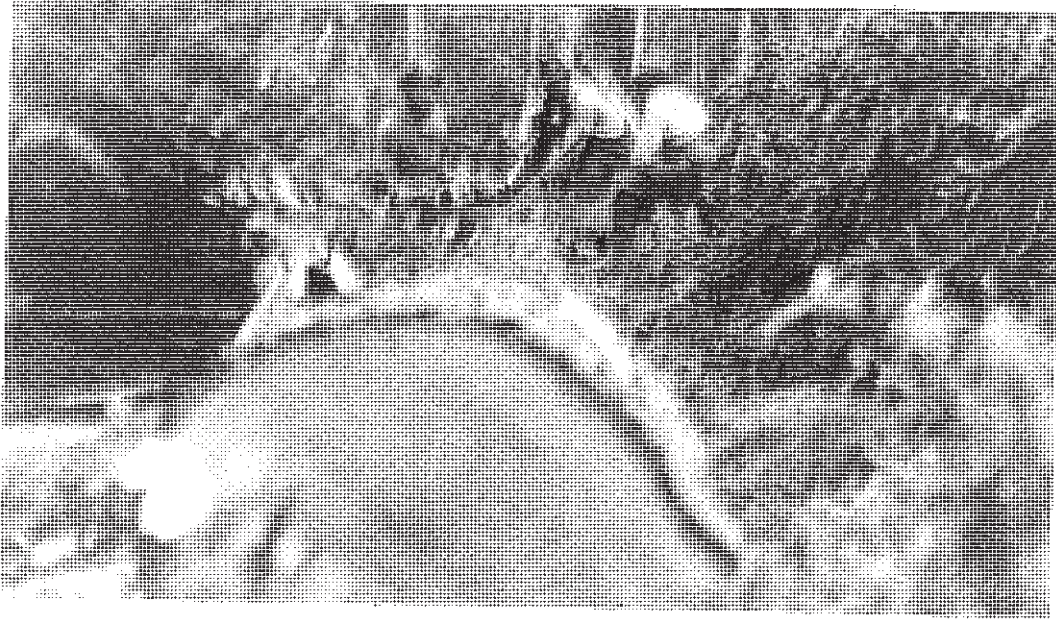
Bob Fine and I built a box with a bench to fit on the back of the truck and each morning Bob and some more of the men would drive by the cabin and pick me up. There was no heat inside this box but at least we were out of the snow. For a door we had a heavy canvas that we would raise up to get inside. It was very dark with the canvas down and we couldn't see the scenery but we enjoyed the ride up the mountain to work.

Each morning as we went to work more and more water would be running across the road. Realizing that a beaver had dammed up the stream and was causing the water problem, we notified the Ranger. He set a trap for the beaver and in a few days he caught it. The Ranger took the beaver to another part of the mountain away from the highway.

One day an ore car got loose that I was welding. It was about a half mile above the saw mill building. A man and his family were at the end of the track and they barely got out of the way when the car went off the track and uprooted some trees.

Another time we were working on building up the base to lay rails from the cable tower to the saw mill building down at the highway. Dick Bullard (son of the boss) was operating the machinery with an ore car attached to it by cable so as to lower rock and dirt down to the lower end to be unloaded. Then he would pull it back up to be loaded with rock and dirt again. We were all wanting water so I rode up in the ore car to get the water jug. Coming down, Dick said he was going to turn me loose. He really did but when he tried to put on the brakes, the cable went through the clamp. I bailed out and the car went off the end of the track. Luckily, no one was hurt.

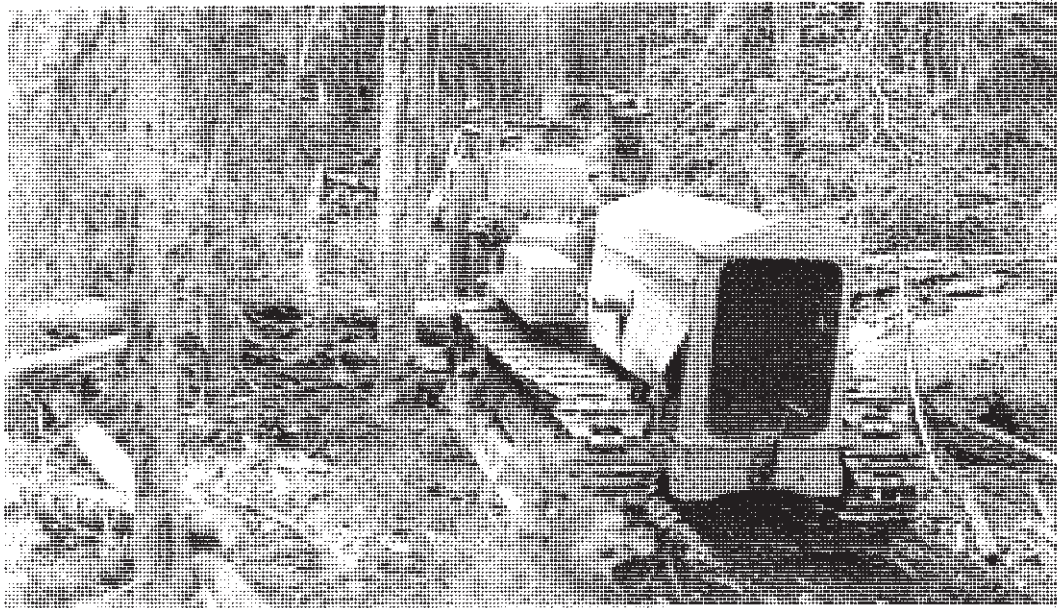
We heard one man got rich by hauling ore to the Leadville mill for the miners at Twin Lakes. He would sign the papers and claim that the ore in some of the wagon loads was his.



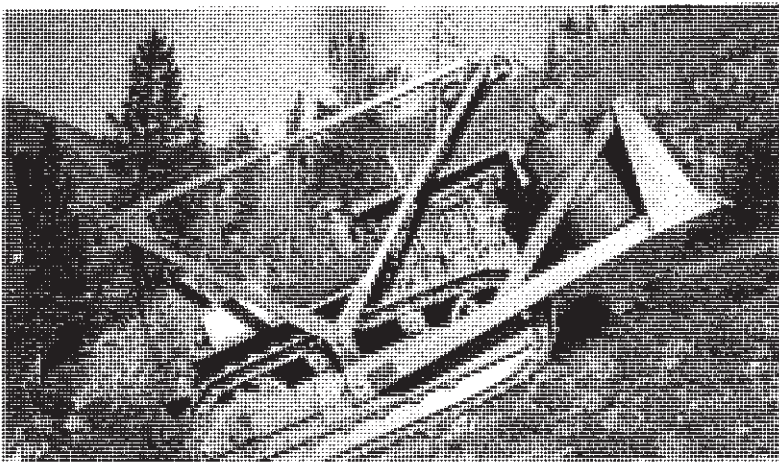
Vernon Resch, his dad and Oral
Glispey cutting timber above
Twin Lakes, Colorado. 1938



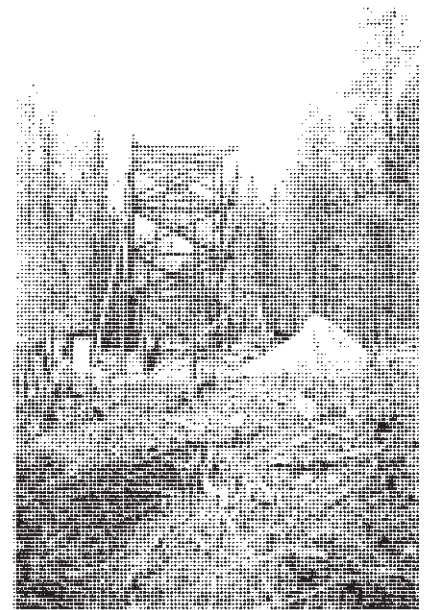
Where we piled our logs so the
U.S. Ranger could check them.
1938



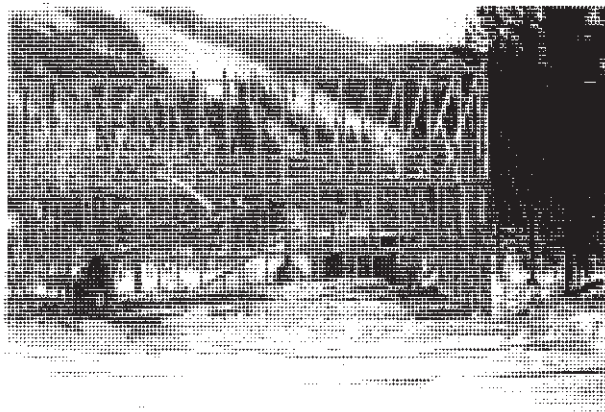
Dick Bullard on tractor. 1938



Frank Duncan at the Last Chance Mine, 1938.



Tim Callahan (Anna's husband) at Tower below mine. Oral Glispey welded the tower (used for cables to hook the ore cars coming down from the Mine.) 1939



Frame of the sawmill building.
The small building on the right
had a 50 gallon metal barrel for
a wood fire. There were three
sides with a roof over it. We ate
our lunch in there to keep warm.



Alice at Last Chance Mine.
1940



Oral Glispey at Last Chance Mine.
1938



Oral welding on the tower. 1939



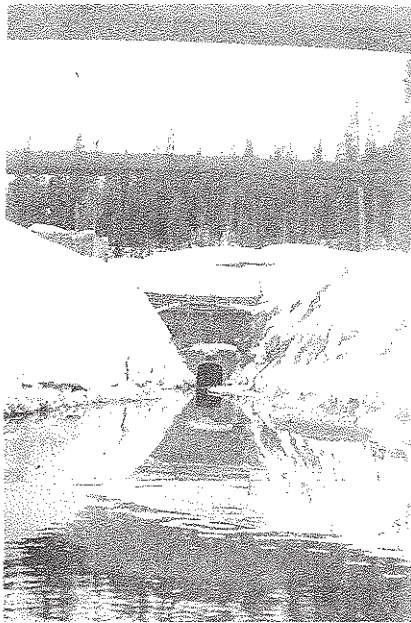
Oral using a jack hammer to build
the road to the mines. 1938



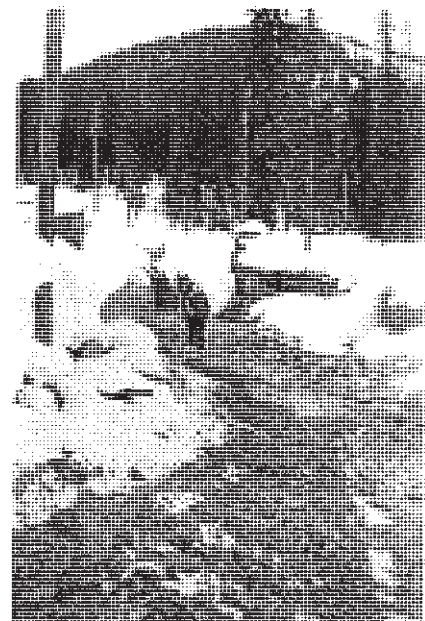
Frank Duncan, Flack, (unknown visitor to the mine), Junior Davis and Oral Glispey at Last Chance Mine. 1938



Bill and Bob Fine in front of the Last Chance Mine. 1938



Water tunnel to bring water from western slope to eastern—4 miles long. 1939



Bill Fine and Alice at water tunnel in 1939.

CHAPTER VII

CHARACTERS LIVING IN TWIN LAKES

Bill (Thelma) and Bob Fine: Friends we knew while living in Kansas City, Missouri. We became friends with them when Alice and Bill worked together at Wards. Alice, Oraleen and I came to Twin Lakes with Bob. Bill joined us in August, 1938.

Sis McGrew: Sis was Bill Fine's unmarried sister.

Snell and Mildred Burk: Snell Burk worked for the Last Chance Mine. He and Mildred were from Blue Springs, Missouri. He had a college engineering degree. He was very smart and got a position with Climax Mines and they moved up to Leadville.

Millers: Owners of the grocery store and cabins below the lakes at Lake Creek Camp where we stayed when we first arrived in Twin Lakes.

Helen and Bob Shirk: Friends of ours while we were in Twin Lakes. They were from Independence, Missouri. Bob drove the truck out from Kansas City for the Mining company with all the supplies needed at the mine. He brought all our furniture out from Kansas City.

Laura and Frank Duncan: Frank drove the truck for the mining company with Bob Shirk. They made up a song that they always sang:

Roll along, truck and trailer, roll along
Take me back to the place where I belong
Independence may be fine but give me
that Twin Lakes Mine
Roll along, truck and trailer, roll along.

Felix Bushae: Felix was quite a character. His jaw had been broken in a mine cave-in and when he spoke it would drop down and he would have to push it up and back in place. He was about four and a half feet tall, wore a large cowboy hat, plaid shirt, jeans and cowboy boots. He had a long mustache. His dog was always following him. Felix would walk with his hands behind him. He said he worked a gold mine in Cripple Creek years before. They searched everyone as they left the mine each day but he claimed he got away with a large nugget in the cuff of his pants. One day two men stopped by his house and he showed them the nugget. After they left, he couldn't find it. He claimed he had sacks of ore in his mine and was waiting for gold to get higher before selling it. Gold was \$35 per ounce then. He was about 97 when he died from injuries in a car accident. Felix said he stowed away on a ship coming to America from Switzerland when he was a young boy. He talked about when he rode the stagecoach over Independence Pass. The women would be screaming and the men cussing from fear of the very narrow roads and the drop-offs of hundreds of feet straight down.

Ole Olson: Ole was a large man with a red beard. He and Felix liked to tell tall stories about the "good old days". One of his stories he like to tell about was when he swam across the lake with a man under each arm.

Dick Bullard: Dick was the son of our boss. He worked for the Last Chance Mine. He was a great dancer so he and Alice would always dance together when we would have those dances.

Hofnagels: Mr. Hofnagel owned the general store in Twin Lakes. Their son maintained the gravel road from 24 highway to Independence Pass. His wife was the Postmistress for Twin Lakes. The Post Office was located inside the store.



Families that lived in Twin Lakes
when we did from July 15, 1938
until January 30, 1940. Davidsons,
Ashcrafts, Duncans, Bullards, Fines,
Morris, Burkes

CHAPTER VIII

Closing

All the time we lived in Colorado we had no conveniences whatever. We had to dip our water out of creeks and carry it inside and we had to chop our wood for cooking and heat. We had no electricity, no telephones and no indoor plumbing.

We had lots of fun and many great adventures in Colorado. However, Oraleen got pneumonia while we were living in the log cabin on Independence Pass. After that she was never able to take the high altitude. When we would go down lower, she would perk up and we could tell she felt better because she would begin to play a little. A doctor in town thought she should move to a lower altitude so the last of January of 1940 we decided to move back to Kansas City, Missouri.

This is definitely not the end of our story. Alice and I have had a wonderful life—maybe not quite as adventurous as our Twin Lakes days. Those wonderful memories from our Colorado experiences formed the basis for our lives. We learned so much about life, about ourselves and about each other. We learned to laugh at our problems and do the very best we could in every situation. We learned we each had strengths and we learned to rely on each other. Those experiences helped us to build a strong marriage and a long and happy life together. We will celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary on July 23, 1999.

