

INTERVIEWEE: Jay & Frankie Bilbao

Interviewer: Gretchen Skivington

Location: Elko, NV

Date of interview: 09.25.15

Audio & Video: 1

Length: 1:08

Language: English (very little Basque)

Summary and index: Gretchen Skivington

1. SUMMARY

Tom Bilbao, son of Basque immigrants Vicente & Paula Bilbao was born at Jack Creek, NV in 1925. His wife Frances “Frankie” Vicondoa Bilbao and son Jay Bilbao talk about prospecting & mining in northern Elko County and their “Aita”, father Tom who was one of the discoverers of different veins along the famous Carlin Trend. Frankie Bilbao talks about her parents Fermin & Madilyn Vicondoa Basque immigrants to Susanville, CA and her move in 1947 to Elko, NV and subsequent marriage to Tom Bilbao. She discusses what it meant to be Basque-American and to be raised in an “Old Country” household. Jay Bilbao, Tom’s son discusses how and where his Dad staked claims and mined independently, his interactions with the big mining companies, contracts and working for and with his Dad. Both interviewees speak of Old Country & New World values and what kind of man Tom Bilbao was and how his legacy lives on.

II. **Key words:** : Basques, Basque sheepherding, Jack Creek/Gold Creek/Tuscarora/Mountain City/Elko, Jerritt Canyon, mining in the north country, Carlin Trend, early prospecting 1940s-2000, mining companies, process of claim staking/mine maintenance, trapping, Old Country vs. New World Values, Stockmen’s Hotel, Elko, Basque culture in Elko

III: Names of People mentioned in/from Jack Creek/Gold Creek/Tuscarora/Elko, NV:

Vicente & Paula Bilbao, Tom & David Bilbao Dan Bilbao, Jay & Mike Bilbao; Filbert Echevarria, Willis Packer, Walt Whittaker, Lew Eklund.