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BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN MECCA

John Mecca was born in Sublette, Wyoming, which is about fifteen miles North of Kemmerer. Mr. Mecca moved to Kemmerer in 1931 and he has lived there since then. His parents were born in Italy and moved to Sublette, Wyoming. Neither one of his parents ever lived in Kemmerer. His father was killed when John was 18 months old.

John likes Wyoming a lot. his favorite past times are fishing and hunting and he does plenty of both. There was one store in Frontier that carried everything he needed. There were also three stores around the Triangle in Kemmerer.

There are two other kids in John's family. He has two sisters and is the youngest of the three. Being a kid during the depression was real tough. There weren't too many jobs. Although everything was fairly cheap most people didn't have the money to buy things.

When John was a kid, kick the can and hide-n-seek were the main past time entertainments. They also had skiing which was only during the wintertime; however, their equipment was nothing like it is now. In Sublette, from September until May, it was almost impossible to get out of town. The train had to bring food and supplies up.

John went on his first date when he was eighteen. There was

no set dating age. Going to the movies was the most common thing to do on a date.

John attended school in Sublette but the school only went to the ninth grade. If a student wanted more education he would have to go to Kemmerer. John only finished up to the ninth grade.

He has lived in Kemmerer for sixty years. He has worked in the mines since he was fifteen and continues working in them today.

Mr. Mecca has worked in several mines. Sublette's mine was the first one he worked in. Then, after Sublette mine was closed down, he helped take the rails out and this is when he moved to Kemmerer. He got a job at the Kemmerer mine, working outside, making little dummies and unloading rocks. In 1934 he broke his leg and was out of work for a while. He recovered from that but in 1936 his back got hurt when a rock fell on him, crushing his vertebrae. This accident kept him out of work for 14 months.

In 1940 he went down to Laramie and took a welding class. When he got back they put him on the temple and he worked there for a couple of weeks. He got a welding job but returned to the mines when it was finished.

The next mine he worked in was the Suzie mine. He fixed equipment that had broken down and helped put up a tip liner. From the Suzie mine he went to the Brilliant mine. Once again he took care of equipment, the temple, and fixed anything that broke down. In 1964 the Suzie mine was closed down and John got a job

at the Elko mine. He helped take down the Conroy temple and then helped put up the Elko temple. In 1951 they stripped the Elko mine and built the strip mine which is there now.

John also worked in the Radiant mine. The only mine in the area that he never worked at was the Frontier mine. This mine was closed before he even moved to Kemmerer. It exploded in 1923, killing 99 men. The Sublette mine also exploded a year later killing 39 people. Elko mine was the last mine he worked at.

John does a lot of hunting and he has hunted all his life. He was the only one of his siblings to hunt. He was 12 years old when he went hunting for the first time.

He retired at age 74 and he is 79 right now so he has been retired for five years. Now that he is retired he spends a lot of time in the mountains relaxing.