

Tent Life

Even though conditions were harsh, colonists forged friendships and a sense of community.



View of the tent city and the people of Ludlow

Approximately 1200 people lived in 200 tents made of canvas and wood.

Around 10 X 14 feet in size, tents were reinforced with interior wooden panels and wooden floors. This provided protection from the weather and occasional gunfire. Cellars provided additional living space and storage.



Miners doing gymnastics on an exercise bar

Despite the tragedy, survivors remembered their time in the colony fondly.

The camaraderie and sense of community gave them strength to deal with everyday trials and tribulations.

With no electricity or running water, the camp offered few comforts.

Colonists hauled water from a well near the railroad tracks, outhouses lined the outskirts of the colony and people used chamber pots inside their tents. A small store, medical tent and jungle gym were among the few amenities available. A large tent and platform in the center of the colony served as a site for meetings and community events.



UMW camp for coal miners on strike against CF&I in Ludlow



UMWA coal miners on strike against CF&I, in Ludlow, Las Animas County, Colorado, pose with onions, celery, bread, a full gunny sack, and a washtub full of spinach.