

02-00-113 SIDE B

Pioneers of Alaska Convention

September 30th, 1961 in Anchorage, Alaska.

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Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 3-inch reel, master copy on CD

Harrie Hughes is recording at the Pioneers of Alaska Convention in Anchorage. It's Sunday, September 30th and Harrie is starting a new day. On 29th they had a grand ball at 9pm and there were quite a few skits by the Auxiliaries. The Elk's Hall wasn't quite as big as [the Elk's Hall in] Seward and it looked like there were less people dancing than there were at Seward. Harrie acted as a grandfather to lots of young ladies and a few men and saw that they got themselves home. They went home around 2:30am. They are starting out with an appointment and breakfast. The convention is going to start around 1pm. It will be the finish for the whole Convention. There will be a memorial ceremony and an installation of officers. Harrie concludes: "See you later, alligator."

The Grand Igloo Convention and the memorial started around 1:30. The excellent memorial program was conducted by Juneau Auxiliary. Around 3pm they had an installation of new grand officers and Mr. Jorgensen, who is their new Grand President, greeted the other officers. Now Harrie's group is preparing to leave to Pioneer Hall which is a starting point for the night's banquet. From there people will go back to their homes. Tomorrow morning Harrie, Frank Young and Andy Wicken will start their trip over the Glenn and Richardson Highways to Fairbanks. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie says they have arrived at the Edgewater Motel and there are about 300 people or more. They had *hors d'oeuvres* and drinks and there were speakers. Finally the Governor gave a very long-winded speech which to Harrie seemed like a political speech that shouldn't have been given. Harrie thinks that the speech should have been short and non-political. Harrie's impression was that the Governor thinks he's all-important to the utopia, but Harrie thinks that it takes all

the people. "Any man in office that assumes the authority of a dictator has slipped across."

At 10:30, after listening the speech for almost an hour, they started to the airport with folks going to the airport. There were 30 people whom Harrie's group went to see off. Sig Wold started singing and they were singing at the airport. After the plane took off, they went back to the hotel to sleep. Harrie got up 5.45am, got dressed and called the Anchorage Hotel with no answer. He couldn't find Frank Young so Andy and Harry went to the Hotel where they found Frank walking in the dining room. Roy Ferguson left a hat and coat to be delivered to the Independent Lumber Company while he ran off with his friend's hat and coat.

They went to the hotcake house again. Harrie thinks that their 85-year old sourdough starter must have been started in Dawson, or before that time. Miller House was started in 1894. Jimmy McDonald and George Bojanich are traveling in a fancy Cadillac. Harrie's group is on their way to Palmer. [Break in the recording.]

7:58 Harrie says it's 8:55 and on their way from Palmer to Glenn Highway. He's with Andrew Wicken and Frank Young. They were discussing merits of some of the speakers: There was Henry Roden who gave an excellent talk about citizenship and mislead glamorizing of early-day criminals and their exploits. General Mondy [maybe Mundy?sp?] gave them an insight to the need for a more asserted effort in their own preservation and history. They were discussing the criminal acts committed in past few years in Alaska. Harrie believes that Henry Roden is correct, and those in early years the few cases of crime have been glamorized and built up. There are quite a number of unsolved crimes of major importance, such as murders. Talking about criminals who have not been prosecuted although they have been found. Frank thinks that justice, law and order in the early days was far ahead of the present setup.

He thinks that Pioneer Henry Roden was quite correct, that accentuating the life of a dance-hall girl and the gambler is not good. Henry Roden said that 50 years ago the good women wouldn't wear the clothes and enter the places where women of today do: they [the women of today] dress as men and act as men; they drink and do it all undercover. In early days it was controlled. The good element and the religious element didn't have to associate with them. The women of today don't maintain the respect for themselves and their families.

They are going through some curves and there is snow on the road. [More about weather conditions.]

At 12:54 Frank Young says he will tell a story about the old-timers and that they are now in Matanuska Valley. There was an old prospector who passed away at Rainey Creek which is on the divide between the Denali Highway and the headwaters of the Delta. It's about 175 miles from Fairbanks. Roy London [sp?] who used to carry mail up that country was delegated to go there and bring the body out. Roy wanted Frank to go along and help her. They went out there and found the old fellow at his cabin. Before they were ready to leave, they decided to cook up a little lunch. They had tea boiling but couldn't find any sugar. On the roughly hewn table, there was a can that Frank suspected was sugar. He took the can and it felt like it was nailed to the table. When he got the top off, he found out that it was ½ full of quartz gold in heavy nuggets. He's not going into details about their trip, but they took the gold to Fairbanks and took it to the Marshal's office. Them days Doug Erwin [sp? Erving? Ervin?] was in charge of the Marshal's office. As time went on, Frank never found out what happened to the gold. It just disappeared. [Break in the recording.]

Now Harrie says it's 9:50 and they are near Sheep Mountain closed area where one can look at sheep. They are using telephoto lens to take pictures of the sheep. [More talking about sheep and the weather.]

They are at the old Sheep Mountain lodge that burned the last spring, and have spotted about 18-19 sheep in one area. [More talking about sheep and photography and weather.]

At 19:00 Harrie says they have stopped at the Eureka Summit. They have passed the Eureka Lodge. Harrie reports the elevation and current time.

Now it's 11:02 and it's October 2nd, 1961. They are stopping at Totatlina Lodge for coffee, at Mile 1. They are 150 miles out of Anchorage. Later, Harrie says they are still at the Lodge and had something to eat. Jimmy McDonald and George Bojanich are coming behind them. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie addresses George and asks him to tell about a lemon tree. Harrie says George has a real lemon tree in the car with a lemon on it. George tells that it's from Anchorage, from [unclear] who is sending it to Mary Bojanich. There's an orange tree too, some meat and smoked salmon. [More talking about it.] Then Harrie says they are getting ready to leave again.

He's taken pictures of the caribou meat and other sights. They are heading towards Glenallen-Paxson next. Now they are approaching the Glenallen Highway and Richardson Highways, and they have just passed Jimmy McDonald and his fancy Cadillac. It's 11:20PM. Frank and Andy don't want to comment.

Now they are at Junction, 230 miles to Fairbanks and George and Jimmy are still behind them. At Mile 166 George passed them. Now they are going downhill towards Paxson Lake and Doc Hoffmann's place [?]. [Break in the recording.] They are at Gun Creek and approaching Richardson Summit, Isabel Pass. The monument is in the distance. George and Jimmy are a mile ahead of them. [Break in the recording.] Now the time is 2:50pm and Harrie's crew is approaching the Black Rapids Glacier at the Sheep Mountains. Jimmy and George are right in front of them. [Unclear talking.]

[End of the recording.]