

**Call number: 02-00-123 SIDE A**

**Personal memorandums and Pioneer Visiting Committee reports, Lynn Smith**

**Dates: July 8<sup>th</sup>-September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1961**

**Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen**

**Date of summary's creation: 10/29/13**

**Series: Harrie Hughes Collection**

**Notes: Original on 3-inch tape, master copy on CD**

Harrie Hughes says it's July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1961 at Nick [Nichols] Kupoff's Pedro Discovery Claim. He's got a beautiful log cabin and a garden. They visited a neighbor and panned a little bit of gold. Nick says he likes his place better than any hotel room to which Harrie says they are all going to get out of town eventually. Harrie brought Andy Wicken with him. Nick tells that he's cut wood and grass and has burnt some birches that the moose ate last winter. They can survey the whole country where the gold was discovered in 1902 from Nick's cabin. Talking about people shooting birds.

Harrie says Nick can't come to Monday Night's meeting but that he's inviting him anyways. Nick says he better stay at home. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie says this is C. H. [C. Harry] Woofter and Frank Young at Woofter's home in Slaterville. Harrie urges Mr. Woofter to talk. [Nervous laughing.] Harrie [?] asks is Mrs. Woofter has lived there for many years and she says she's been there for 23 years. [Unclear talking.] 1905.

The Woofters went to a ball game at Week's Field but mosquitoes scared them away. Harrie asks how long he stayed in town that time and he says he stayed for 4 years. Then they were sent down the river to Tanana that was also called Fort Gibbon or Weare [possibly Weir?]. [Unclear talking about how the army got to Tanana.] The wireless line was built at Fort Gibbon. From there Woofter went Outside and he was in Nome too in 1922. He stayed in Nome for quite a while, his last assignment being in Nome. He was installing a diesel engine on the cape and

he was supposed to stay there for 3 weeks but he was there for 9 months before he [unclear] came over and retired. Harrie asks if Harvey Carlisle was there too. CH says he knew him in the Interior and that he was connected to the land office. Harrie says he was in Nome for many years.

5:11 Harrie asks if CH was the past president of Igloo no. 4. He says he was the president in 1921. Mrs. Woofter was the president of the auxiliary [the same time as Frank Young?]. She says she always admired Frank. [Unclear talking.] She didn't think her son would go but he did. CH says nobody expects to go but it just happens that way. It's the destiny. [Unclear talking.] Frank [?] quotes a poem that says "Whatever happens is the best." Discussing how the world has changed in past 10 years.

CH says that the whole system of values in the United States has changed: social, political and everything else. Mrs. Woofter asks if they know what the last report from the president is. Harrie says it's Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> in 1961 and Harrie is going to play the tape back. [Break in the recording.]

At 8:27 Harrie says that was a short interview by Frank Young and Harrie Hughes with CH Woofter and his wife. Mr. Woofter was in the Interior in the early days of the Army Communications. They also have a tape-recording from a talk in July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1961 at Pedro Ceremony of Igloo no. 4 on another tape. [Break in the recording.]

9:23 Harrie introduces a tape from August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1961, which is a personal memorandum of the Pioneers of Alaska that are fast passing away. They had a funeral for Jack Brooks in August 15<sup>th</sup>. Jack Brook passed away in age of 91 and a few days later they had Mr. Cook passed away at age of 60, and then Nate [Natale] Speroni who was an old miner from 12<sup>th</sup> Creek and Fairbanks –area passed away in his cabin. Today, on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, they had a funeral of another old-timer from Chicken and Eagle. He had been there approximately 52 years and he was 72 years old. His nephew came from Seattle to attend the funeral. The memorandums that are tape-recorded or written down are hopefully used in reminding newer people of the life in the State of Alaska. Harrie talks more about the unexplored and underdeveloped Great State of Alaska.

At 12:43 it's Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in Fairbanks, Alaska and they are on the last visiting trip to St. Joseph's Hospital with Clyde Burkett. [Break in the recording.] Clyde Burkett says he just visited Pat Burke, an old-timer who doesn't belong to the Pioneers but is an old-timer nevertheless. He's 79 years old and came to Alaska in 1910. Harrie says he's eligible for the Pioneers. He was born in 1880 and he is now 78. [He doesn't seem to be quite sure of the year or his age.] He was born in September. Harrie asks what he did in Alaska, and he says he mostly worked for the FE-Company [Fairbanks Exploration Company]. Harrie says they might have met and that his face is familiar. They hope quick healing and say he'll be ready to join the Pioneers. [Break in the recording.]

Now they are talking with somebody who says he doesn't have anything to say to the pioneers on their Monday night meeting. He doesn't give a damn. [Break in the recording.]

16:20 Clyde Burkett says he's visiting Mr. Schneurer [sp?] who has been to the hospital for 4 weeks and is getting along fine. [Break in the recording.]

John Furn [sp? Fern? Byrne?] who was Harrie's neighbor at Late Night introduces himself. Harrie says he used to leave a bottle of beer for John Furn when he passed by John's cabin and asks if John remembers him. Harrie tries to remind John about himself, telling that they used to haul [unclear] with horses to the mine. John worked on his own claim and Harrie worked for the railroad. Harrie continues that Mr. John Furn came to Alaska 1907 and has lived most of his life in Healy River Canyon around Healy mine.

Harrie says Clyde and him didn't recognize the man and says that he used to hike all around those creeks around there. He had a cabin near the Late Night and the Roadhouse. [Unclear talking.] Right where the experimental farm was. Jack Singel [sp? Single?] had it first and then Andrew Dragish [sp?] got it. Andrew and Mrs. Dragish are now in the Old Country. They got married and moved to California for 8 years after which they sold the property and moved to Yugoslavia [sic]. Harrie asks if John is alone at his cabin. [Unclear talking.] He stays in Sentana [possibly Suntana or Suntrana?]. [Jack's speech is too quiet to be heard.] Harrie says there are not many people left of people who used to live there. [Unclear talking.]

Harrie mentions Herb Williams and asks who's living in Mary Thompson's new place. [John lives there?]

At 20:00, the next segment starts with unclear talking and continues unclear until the end, occasional laughter.

[End of the recording.]