

Here's a Pioneer tapes - Tape 3, Side 1-Cut 1

Side 1 - Harry Badger interview - "Strawberry King" - raised strawberries and brought 15-20 crates a day to town for 25 years. Cross between outside and local strawberries. Came in 1900 because others had come out with gold. Worked in Washington logging country. First went to Dawson for 3 years.

Barnette got stuck in "Fairbanks" and unloaded his boat. Sent a "jap" named Waddle to Dawson to tell of Pedro's 9 feet of paydirt. Turned out to be not so rich and they put the Jap on trial. Badger was chairman of that court and the man was let go free.

Barnette wouldn't sell flour unless you took 3 cases of canned goods that weren't any good. Miners passed a resolution ordering Captain Barnette to sell flour 1 sack at a time.

Talks about a man who didn't want to tell them what he had.

Opened up real estate office.

Town recorder was elected and he charged \$2.50 to record a lot. Many people left because of not hitting paydirt and they sold lots with cabins for any price. Had to build in 30 days after staking. Could have 30 day leave of absence to go to Circle to buy food - used dogsleds. Oly - a Swede who was friend of Wickersham's. Put 700 lbs. on sled and pulled it himself. Couldn't make it up the hill so put 300 lbs. on his back and that held him down so he could get up the hill.

Badger bemoans life in town and loss of good old days when cabins were left unmolested.

Pulled a sled by the neck from Skagway to Dawson (40 days) got a dog at Bennett - landed at Dawson March 5, 1900.

Describes path - 33 days from Dawson to Fairbanks. 85 next birthday when interviewed.

Side 1 - Ben Falls interview (from Livengood) - Came to Alaska in 1901. Landed in Whitehorse from Vancouver. Helped to build steamers. He did the joining work.

Spring 1902 built a boat that sailed to Koyukook.

Heard of strike at Cold Foot but it was expensive country so went with another man intending to go back to Dawson.

But ended up going across country and landed at the Yukon - Ft. Stevens (Hamlon).

Gordon Bettles was on this trip - he used to be an editor in Detroit. Gandellfa (?) was also on the trip.

Went to Rampart - did some hay cutting for Sam Heater. Stayed 'til Feb. and then started up the Tanana River with load of freight Heater had.

Came into Chena. Wasn't anything in Fairbanks then. Didn't know which was going to be river headquarters.

Here's a Pioneer tapes - Tape 3, Side 1-Cut 2

Side 1 - Ben Falls interview (from Livengood),--continued - Judge decided to start courthouse in Fairbanks - Winter 1903. In Spring people started to leave by the hundreds. No feed for the horses - many died but Falls managed to save his. Went across country to what became Livengood. Were in the beaver country.

Partner was John Patterson who was then an old man. Died in a log jam. Had been in that part of country before. Had heard from an Indian John Manute (?) about Livengood.- Summer 1903. Didn't know whether there was any pay in Fairbanks.

Had to come in to make grubstake and so came to Fairbanks and worked as a carpenter.

At time of recording he was showing tourists about gold panning. Won contest against FE's good panner.

Side 2 - (noisy) Alexander Malcolm Smith interview - Sandy Smith - 93 yrs old. Back in the territory for the summer.

Wild Creek - new stampede in Koyokok country. Elected commissioner of the miners - recorded claims.

Keep writing to Washington to ask for post office. Finally named it (?) Al Malcolm. Miners teased him for naming it after himself.

Built a boat and told they would never make it. Started up John River and got to be rapids. Rained and while he and Bill were in tent they discussed going back. Finally got stuff up to the summit. Went hunting in Anak-tuvuk (?) Valley (goes clear to Canada).

Water washed over boat and lost most of their supplies. Got to mouth of Colville River.

Started to Barrow - sunk into ground because of oil. Eskimos going from Hershel Island to Barrow saw oil tracks in snow and reported some crazy men wandering around in snow.

Charlie Brower fed them 3 weeks and they started across Cape Lisbourne. Got to ? River and Discovered a coal field - largest in the world.

Got caught in storm. Had to take turns in sleeping bag. 3rd morning heard dogs - ran into an igloo 10' x 12' with 12 dogs and 14 people. Had been in there 7 days and 7 nights.

Sandy and Bill were headed for Point Hope and Eskimos said they'd never make it.

Started out - canyon walls were 400-500 feet high.

Recording ends abruptly

Side 2 - (scratchy) Mrs. Geo. Gasser interview - Came to Alaska - her brother represented SYT Co. and the Co. brought her up to visit him at St. Michael's for 10 days and then back to Seattle. Next year they gave her the trip again.

Eventually he was mining and she came to spend the winter. 2 years later Gasser came to Rampart Experiment Station. Gasser was a plant breeder and he worked with grains. Working for earliness and heartiness. This was before the Matanuska Experiment.

Side 2 - Mrs. Geo. Gasser interview, continued - Also a station at Sitka. It worked mostly with fruit trees and berries.

Fred Raider started Rampart Station and then went back to California. Dr. Jorgeson had selected Rampart as site.

Grew many garden things - things that wouldn't winter kill. Most success with wheat, oats, barley, Kentucky blue grass.

Tanana Valley Experiment farm started later than Rampart.

SYT - Seattle-Yukon-Transportation Company organized as soon as gold boat came to Seattle.

Judge Wood - mayor went to Frisco and hired the Humbolt to come up and take people to St. Michael's. "The Seattle" was built at Dutch Harbor. There were some boats on the Yukon - perhaps the Hannah and the Sarah.

While living at Rampart, came to Fairbanks to have teeth worked on.

A year after married Mrs. Gasser went back out to Seattle to see her sister's children.

He didn't take his yearly vacations so one time he got 5 months and another time 6 month leave with full pay. Lived in Rampart 17 years. Took up wild plants because of questions.

Berkley and Harvard men came up to get butterflies and moths. Read in evening. Organized Saturday afternoon shooting class for Indian boys. Girls came to wash dishes. Gave Christmas parties. Kids like alphabet blocks best.