

Call number: 02-00-62-29

KFAR Radio Fairbanks

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

Date(s) of creation of summary: 4/15/2013

This recording is a continuation of 02-00-62-28 in which Harry Hughes mentioned, before the recording ended, that he was flipping the tapes. The recording starts with a man telling Bob from KENI that the French family is OK. Another man has an announcement from Von Krueger from the Swanson Lake area. He is working on an oil rig down there. The message is everything is OK in Anchorage. Bob says there is a problem and then the recording is cut off. ACS is asked to call the radio station. Otto is taking more calls. Bob asks if anyone has looked at the temperature lately. The thermometer says about 25 degrees. Bob says he is going to play music and it is 21 minutes before 2 o'clock. They go to the Kenai camper. A man at the camper says he has in his possession a roll of 8mm color film and he is wondering if he can get this processed and put on TV when they are commissioned. Bob says there is no way for them to use 8 mm film. Bob says tell them to use 16mm next earthquake. Bob says they are anxious for ACS. There is no AP. There is a local feed. There is no Safeway, no Piggly Wiggly, no nothing. Music begins playing. A man cuts in and says radio station KFAR 660 in Fairbanks. Alaska Standard Time is now 1:41 am.

KENI returns and a man says he wants to get an announcement in. There is a request for Ed Cage to report to the Charcoal burger. Music begins playing again and then stops. The recording resumes at 5:25 and Harry Hughes says this is the second side of the second reel monitory KFAR radio rebroadcast of KENI radio with the rundown of the happenings of the earthquake. This is 2:31 in the morning and he is starting on the second half. The KFAR Radio returns and says that at this time there is no contact with KENI Anchorage. They are able to receive them but they cannot return any messages. They would appreciate it if people would hold off on the messages until they announce over the air until they can contact KENI. KENI returns. Honolulu has reported all clear and is not anticipating any tidal waves. All residents are being reported to their homes. Mr. Petree [?] has arrived from Girdwood and as far as he knows they are all safe. They are presently being housed at the Tiger's Den. The Little Dipper Club burned, the houses have been knocked as much as 3 feet off their foundation. There were 12 avalanches and he said some were 40 feet deep on the way to Anchorage. People got out their cars and hiked back to Girdwood. The hikers are all safe. Jeanie Chance is returning it to Bill. Bob asks if he can talk with Jeanie. Bob asks if she has had any reports from along the Aleutian Mountain chain. She says the unconfirmed report from Kodiak that there were two severe tidal waves. They got the report at about 12:50 in the morning. According to the HAM operators they had sustained two tidal waves and there was between 10-15 feet of water in the streets. It was not known if any lives were lost but it had been reported earlier that everyone had been evacuated to higher ground. There has been a report that Kodiak was virtually demolished. The other report is that the dock and houses on the waterfront have been washed away. Bob says never underestimate the power of a woman. Bob says there has

been a new link to the Aleutian Mountain chain. Bob says he is kidding. Bob says there is something from the wires of the associated press. There have been 3 confirmed dead and 20 missing. Bill Bering is wondering if it would be a good idea to request again the people who should meet at the public safety meeting. The names can be heard on 02-00-62-28.

At 12:30 of the recording Bob says that he imagines that it is possible that Otto could take more announcements. Bob says during emergencies all the women are recruited so the dispatch side gets a good work out. Jeanie is away from the monitor. Bob thinks she's mad for teasing her and Bill says he wouldn't blame her. Bob then says that he wouldn't blame her either. Bob doesn't know why he does stuff like that. Bob even goes so far to say that he hates himself. Peggy Hill just came down with the some coffee. [There is a clear attempt by the station to atone for previous statements by Bob]. Mr. Otto has a few reports. He is generous with his. There is a request for collect calls through Fairbanks to O.R. Hayes in Danville, CA the number is 837-2491. To RJ Goodman to Manny LA to 256-3387. To Henry Legit [?] in Gulfport, MS at 863-2949. This is to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harvey in Philadelphia: Harris family OK in Anchorage. Will someone in Fairbanks make a collection call to RZ Cood in Delmont, Texas the number is 28110 terminal. Would they please call Campbell's in Houston and Billy Joe Bishop at terminal 24443. To Mary Lafourge [?] at Edgewater 21068. Bob is gone. Bob returns and thanks Otto. Bob says he was out to find someone to take a wild guess on how much damage the KENI facilities have suffered. He got an estimate of \$50,000. Otto was on duty when the earthquake hit and he would like to say that the studio is suspended and any tremor will really make them rock. Otto says that he wasn't in the studio alone. Jim and Dave were locked in and he had to quit broadcasting when the light went out. He caught tape cartridges for a couple minutes. Finally he abandoned ship and went out the door and that was it. Jim Lawson and Dave Dragey [?] found themselves locked in the other studio. Along came Darrell Comstock [?] and Dave Dragey [?] told Comstock not to kick the door and Comstock left.

At 21:12 of the recording Bill has a story from the KENI camper. Jeanie has an important message. She is reporting from the headquarters at the public safety building. First of all she has a message for Jacey [?] Mitchell in Fairbanks: Melanie Brown's daughter is alright. Jeanie says for the people who are relaying messages in Fairbanks: Mrs. Lauer would like to relay a call to New York. She would like for them to call Mrs. Sam Porter or Mrs. Albert Bolk [?]. The number is SO 85684; call collect and tell either Mr. Porter or Bolk that Mrs. Lauer is alright. Mr. Roy Gillman has a message. Roy says he would like someone in Fairbanks to contact Gerry Clause at GL67777 and ask him to ship down all of the bread that he can. Put it on the train and continue sending until he says "Whoa." Jeanie says there are people who are arriving from a weekly newspaper in Fairbanks. If any other groups are planning to come down to assist they could include bread too. Jerry would send down several hundred or a thousand loaves and Roy helped them out. Roy Gillman owns a bakery. All their waiting for is electricity and gas. Everything is ready to go. Jean or Ernest Putnam want to know if their mother is OK. If they will get in touch with Barbara Putnam at home. Jeanie is getting ready to sign off and get ready for the conference for the program of rescue and salvage. Bob asks Jeanie if she needs any help down there on covering the conference. Bill is asked to flag her down. Bill has some messages. Paul Cruz [?] Jr. is request to the Kenneth Anders home, his mother is there. Stan Christenson is being told that his children and Maureen are safe. Charles Cruz is safe. David Cruz is supposed to go to the Anders residence. Ann Reynolds

please contact KENI and let her know about her healthcare. Joyce Logan is sending a message to Kent Logan: she is OK. JG Long in Ketchikan; all is OK. Mrs. Walter Hickel is Ok. American Legion Post 1 needs no more blankets but could use sandwiches. Lennty at Big Lake; Bowman and Geffords [?] are all ok. Bob is really pushing to see if Jeanie could use any help. As soon as dawn breaks and people can see around town there will be Kenai news cars around the area giving descriptions and urging people not to come downtown just to look because there will be a lot of people working and a lot of people are trying to keep down the number of persons who are walking the streets. One building will have to be pulled down. Otto has a message. Otto has one to Mr. Jack Rodrick [?] at Alyeska: his family is OK in Anchorage. Collect calls to Fairbanks: one from James Mullet in Seattle from Helen and Family. To Mrs. Protzman: a collect call to Fairbanks from Lansing, Iowa. Sgt. Protzman and family are OK. To Mrs. Wilda Swartz of Colorado Springs, Colorado the number is 632-5344: Sgt. Proxman is ok. A collect call through Fairbanks to LH Dodge from Redondo Beach, CA. The number is F32319 from Red Dodge and family and Carol and Family: OK in Anchorage. 12 Ben W Porter of Whittier CA, number is O6885 from Frank W Smith Family in Anchorage: OK. M.A. Porter in Bellevue, Washington. GL41062 from Red Dodge Family from Anchorage: everything hunky dunky. Bob says he has a message that if someone will call collect from Fairbanks to Gerald Daunais in Montreal. Daunais wants him to call at M54473 and tell him his family is OK. Bob has a message that if anyone in the Kenai camper can please call Mrs. James Height.

At 31:15 of the recording KFAR cuts into the recording to say that they will take care of the long distance phone calls. So to save the confusion, KFAR is recording the phone calls. There are volunteers calling the numbers. KENI returns. Barb was supposed to be in Penny's at the time of the quake. Correction: Barb's mother was supposed to be in Penny's during the quake. There is a message to Fairbanks. Someone please place a collect called to code 503 the number is 6883537 at Eugene, Oregon. Leave a message for Hazel Norris: all the Berry's are in Fairbanks. There is another message to Fairbanks. To Mr and Mrs. EF Berry at UN45347 in Evanston, Illinois. All the Berry's are ok. There is no word on Jeanie. Bob says that there is one thing about this. He is sure that the people in Fairbanks would be very happy to place as many as the calls as possibly can. Bob can't in his wildest imagination get a picture of all of the calls going out of Fairbanks. If all the calls were being made at once it would probably be the biggest jam up on ACS lines ever. KFAR comes on and says that KFAR is going to make the phone calls and discourage people from making the phone calls.

At 35:45 Bob from KENI returns and is discussing sleepy post-earthquake victims. Otto Miller is with him at KENI studios. Dolly is there, Charlie Gray. Billy Berry and Jeanie Chance are at the Kenai camper. Bill Dotson is still sitting at the AP teletype machine punching out messages. Otto Miller reports messages from Anchorage. Another collect call to be addressed to Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. The number is BE83294 to LH McKinley from Bill McGee and family: Ok. Another message to August Town Maryland. Mr. Hubor Bock from Jeffer family in Anchorage: all OK. A collect call to call Mrs. Rita Woodburn. Samish Island Grovery, Samish Island, Washington. Son Phil is ok. That is the extent of the messages. Mr. and Mrs. LJ Hughes in Pueblo, Colorado. L47268 and tell them that John and Linda Bilsbick are ok and please call John's family. Another message for someone in Fairbanks. Please call James Mullet in Seattle in care of Richard Patterson. The family is OK and please call grandma. It is 3:05 am. Part of the crew working now and a few are at home getting sleep. He asks Dolly if she wants to go home. Bob

says he hasn't heard anything of a tidal wave. He asks Kenai camper if they have heard anything about a tidal wave in Cook Inlet. Bill says the last thing he heard was from 3 hours ago from Civil Defense Headquarters and it was a reminder that it was high water heading toward Anchorage. People in the low line area should be moved out. As far as Bill knows nothing else to report about the tidal wave from Bill Berry. Bill wants to send a message to Whittier from Barnes Osborne and Nicholson: they are trying to hear about them because their family is OK. Mr. Lowell Thomas Jr. from Fairbanks and trying to find the whereabouts of his wife and family in Anchorage. KFAR cuts in to remind people that they will take care of the collect calls. Bill has more messages. He just called Mrs. Robert Hoyt [?] and she would like to put the message out that her father in law was on his way to Indian, Alaska. She wants to know if he is alright and if any of the three boys would call her at her. The number is FA24277. They just received word from Jeanie Chance who is currently covering the meeting. She will give a report on the meeting as soon as it is concluded. Robert J Maine who is a geophysicist with the US Coast and Geodetic Survey at Sitka says that the seismograph showed a quiet period after the first shock. KFAR cuts in again. KFAR has a special report from the Fairbanks Civil Defense Office with a report from Paul Garwood. Paul is speaking to Lee from the Civil Defense Quarters. A report is concerning Kodiak and Kodiak Island. Downtown Kodiak has been demolished. The water supply is good. The electrical plant is destroyed and there is no power at this time. Officers and officials will meet. Old Harbor and Kugeyak [?] are reported wiped out. Abugnak [?] has no report. There are an unknown number of casualties in Kodiak. They expect there to be another 50 casualties. Paul Garwood reporting from downtown Fairbanks.

At 49:15 Harry Hughes begins reporting. The performance of KFAR and KENI pleases Harry Hughes. Hughes says the tape will carry quite a lot of importance on how people panic. He says the first reports were outrageous. He says it was more than one hour before information got out after the earthquake. Hughes says the Washington DC officials should have this information for future disasters. The recording ends.