

Call number: 02-00-62-33 SIDE A

Harrie Hughes' trip through the United States, various locations and times.

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen and Varpu Lotvonen

Date(s) of creation of summary: 6/26/13, 8/26/13

Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 3 inch reel, master copy printed on CD. Harrie is recording in multiple time intervals.

The recording begins with Harrie Hughes stating that he is at Gull Lake which is about 36 miles from Swiss currents. At Gull Lake he is starting to see a lot of the wheat and grain elevators. There are McCabes and the Gull Lake pool. There are about 8 or 9 companies and there must be enormous grain raising companies. Harrie says he is getting out of the cattle raising district in the range country. Harrie is driving along and sees a sign that says Swiss Current is 35 miles away and Regina is 100 and something. Harrie is passing the Meadowdale Golf Course. Harrie says he gets a kick out of full grown men chasing a silly ball around. Harrie says it is time to make another time change. Instead of 10 minutes after 3 it is 10 minutes after 4. He is traveling east. He is coming into Swiss current, Saskatchewan in Canada. He see a Standard Oil service station and stops. Harrie says he just stopped to have a milkshake at the Standard Oil service station. It is a nice little restaurant with sociable people. Swift current is the progressive looking place. It has model trailer courts with up to date equipment. There is lots of green grass. He is leaving town on the way to Regina and Moosejaw.

At 2:30 of the recording Harrie says Regina is 152 miles from this point. Moosejaw is 73 miles from this point and Regina is 115 miles from this point. The time is 6:30 pm. He says he coming into a big salt refinery 100 miles from Regina and two miles from Champlain. He wants to take a picture of the big salt deposit. He has taken a couple color pictures and one black and white. It looks like a big salt bed. The sign says the Saskatchewan minerals corporation-sodium sulfate division. The sign explains the sodium sulfate process. He says he saw a great big long legged jack rabbit run across the road. It was as big as an army mule. The time is now 7:47 pm on Sunday. He is 3 miles out of Moosejaw. He stopped at a service station. He is going to head to portal to cross into North Dakota. He has had a wonderful shiny day and the traveling has been good. He is going to stop and have coffee.

At 5:30 of the recording Harrie says he just finished lunch at the Moosejaw Esso service station about 3 miles out of town. He left the Trans-Canadian Highway 1 and he is traveling on Highway 39 which is a secondary road but it is paved. He just saw a beautiful sunset behind him and he just passed a place named Pittman. Not a thing for miles around. The next town of any size is Wayburn and it is 93 miles from where he left Highway 1. He just saw a nice fat duck sitting right by the road. The duck looked at Harrie and quacked. He just left Wayburn and now he is on his way to portal. The time now is another hour time change. The time now is 10:55 pm. The road he is traveling on is beautiful and he is going

through a whole bunch of oil fields. The oil wells are located near Middale. He has been listening to one Canadian radio station. He doesn't have the call letter. It has been continuous music with no advertising. He is entering the town of Estevan which is near the border of Canadian and U.S. He is at the Canadian border at 12:15 am. The customs office is closed and he thought it would be open all night.

At 8:30 of the recording Harrie states that the time is 4:15 am and he just checked through Canadian and U.S. customs at north Portal. Mr. Thompson sends his regards to Bob in Fairbanks. Harrie is on his way now. This is a large state, North Dakota. He is heading to Minot. There are oil wells in every direction for miles and miles. The country is big and flat. There is a beautiful red sunrise and the sky is all red. He just stopped at a place called Kenmore. There is a mammoth trailer court. There must be 4 or 500 trailers. It covers many acres. The motel is called Sunway Motel. The second picture is of sleeping cows because the kids in Alaska don't believe cows sleep. It is Monday morning June 17th and the time is 5:20 am. He is in a little town called Donnybrook. He stopped in Minot, North Dakota at the Capri restaurant. The time is 7:05 am. He is now entering the Devils Lake area. It is a good size village. The sky is overcast and the thermometer says 75 degrees.

At 11:20 of the recording Harrie states that the time now is 7:45 in the evening. He is going to a place called the Two Spot and it is a pretty good place to be. Today is June the 17th in the evening. He is starting out again. Harrie had a rest. It is a little muggy and overcast and there are some pretty dark clouds in the distance. It's been 86 degrees and has been so hot. He took off and slept and is traveling the evening the temperature now is about 73 degrees. The vegetation is a bushy looking tree that are short and strong looking. Harrie just saw a brick school house that was built in 1901 and it still looked as new as probably when it was built and is still occupied. Another observation is that there are Dairy Queens all over that go by different names. Every super gas station has a restaurant or attachment. Another thing he has noticed is that there is camping facilities including fireplaces, water, tables, and areas under the trees all along the road. The next one is 33 miles. The camp sites are well kept and must be maintained by an agency.

At 14:40 of the recording Harrie says he has stopped at a state highway department weighing station and information center. He is to take Highway 81 to Fargo, North Dakota. That will be his next run in about 100 miles. He just filled with gasoline at a Standard Oil station in grand forks. He is on highway 81 heading south to Fargo. He is observing a lightning storm ahead towards Fargo. A 9 o'clock at night it is pitch black in North Dakota. He just stopped at a roadside restaurant and motel and had a cup of coffee. The place is called the Happy Hour Bar & Liquor. He had a visit with an old guy who was traveling around the country. The old man was in Alaska, Canada, and Russia between 1918. Harrie then stops at a sandwich stand. He just had his turn down on credit card for gas on this side of Alexandria. The guy didn't know whether he should or shouldn't. It was the Humboldt oil company. He has seen two large chicken ranches with chickens just sleeping out in the open. They were all one big flock. He left Rochester and it is 3 pm and the speed limit is 30 mph. The place he is at is called Harmony. They have a big recreation center.

At 17:30 of the recording the time is now 5 pm and he is headed toward Dubuque. He stopped at the American veteran's cemetery. They have a beautiful lawn and monument dedicated to the World War heroes. He is noticing something else. Not only is there a nice clean well laid out field and farmer but there is lawn on both sides of the highway. It looks just like a park. There are a lot of great big white pigs. The farmers are bailing hay. The place he is at is named Gutenberg. There are pretty motels and lakes and streams and really fancy. They are regular dude ranches. There is a big Swiss style one. The shrubbery along the road is beautiful. He is on Dubuque highway and he took a picture of an old building that looks like a church on the main street. The street is 13th street and Central. The building is located at 7th west and central. There is still an old cable car that is located in Dubuque that says 10 cents a ride. He stopped and took an exposure of a castle home on the side of the hill just out of Dubuque. The castle turned out to be a church on a cemetery yard on the side of the hill. He just took two pictures of coal barges pulling out and going to the lakes. They are Kentucky Coal Company barges. He is up on top of a park here in the village.

At 21:00 of the recording he is in Belleview, Iowa and the Belleview Iowa State Park starts here right next to the river, the Mississippi or the Missouri. He is passing through a town of Savannah on Mississippi river. There are lots of brick buildings and some wooden ones and one of those beautiful old churches. Harrie got to Joliet, Illinois at midnight. Now he says the time is 6:30 a.m. in the morning and he has stopped in a restaurant at a truck stop to some coffee and juice. He is ready to go again, the sun is bright and he met a neighbor "down here". Claude Rough [sp?] introduces himself and says he was born in Lyndon. He tries to get Harrie to go out of his way to visit there and see some of his old buddies. Harrie says he was pretty young and his buddies might not be there anymore. Discussing whether he should go or not and Harrie mentions the families who live in Lyndon. Claude says they would be much easier to find from Lyndon than from Naples because Naples is a big city: Harrie might get lost and all the streets run crooked. Harrie says some [of his friends?] work at the state building. Claude says there is a new office building and it's hard to find one's way in it, and discusses people who live off the government. Then he wishes Harrie a good trip.

At 24:05 Harrie states that he is heading to Lafayette, Indiana, about 15-20 miles out of Lyndon where he was born. He is entering the Montgomery County and time is 7:45am and he is almost to the town limit of Lyndon where Harrie was born in 1899. He tells that he took a couple of pictures about railroad crossing and that he was born within a couple of hundred feet from it. The building is burned down but a couple of old-timers said they knew it. Ruth and Elizabeth are both married and alive but Elizabeth is very sick and Harrie couldn't visit her. Ruth and her husband were at the hospital. Harrie is on his way to Highway 52 to start towards Minneapolis and Washington D.C. The gentleman at the gas station in Lyndon says Harrie Hughe's brother visited there a few days ago. Harrie assumes it was Charles Ivan. He lives outside Los Angeles a little ways with his wife.

Harrie states the time is 10:30 and he is passing through the heart of Indianapolis, all the freeways and traffic lights, and that he managed to get through without getting tangled up. He is following Highway 52, it's hot and traffic is thick. There are farms and beautiful homes. He's seen some 300 freight trucks. He's passing by Marion County home in Indiana that is a mammoth thing and must have a mile of land. There are big, black walnut trees. Everybody raises corn and there is some wheat too, but mostly corn.

At 29:07 Harrie Hughes says he is traveling on the George Washington Highway towards Washington D.C. He is leaving thickly populated area with lots of traffic. He is following a car from West Virginia. Harrie repeats what he says and adds that he is in front of a Milford shopping center. The speed limit has changed 500 times from all the way from 20 miles/hr. to 60-70 miles/hr. 20 mph's happen when you least expect and on school zones it's 15mph. Harrie says Frank Young doesn't know what he is missing and says one shouldn't complain about Alaska roads because where Harrie is, the roads are half the width of the Alcan Highway or the streets of Fairbanks. Some people wonder about Harrie's Alaska license plates but "they don't know Alaska." There are pretty flowers all along. Now the speed limit is 50 mph, back down to 35. Harrie sates that he has seen acres of wrecked automobiles and jumped [probably junked] cars, piles and piles of them. If they had the money that they spent on gasoline, they could gold-plate everything in Pioneer Park. A strange thing: telephone company had drilled a hole right through a black walnut tree to put wires in.

Around 32:00 Harrie mentions a car collector with Model T's and other models. Harrie is now driving 65mph. He stopped in a little drive-in called Corral drive-in. He also stopped in a place called Hildeborough and he has some 400 miles to Washington yet. It's 6:40pm and Harrie stopped at a motel called the Lucky Star. He is going to sleep and get up in the morning. While he serviced his car in McArthur, which took him about 45 minutes, he had coffee. Now he is on his way, 380 miles to Washington, according to the attendant at the gas station. It's a bright morning. There are canyons, trees, everything. There are awful lot of old people sitting in front of shops and under the trees. They don't seem to have a point to their lives, but to walk around and sit in front of the courthouse, the stores. The temperature is 66F 9am in the morning, same than in Fairbanks, Alaska.

At 35:25 Harrie is going through Athens, Ohio. Highway 50 goes right through the university and right through the center of town. Old brick buildings are interesting and there is considerable amount of traffic and well-kept places. The town looks more alive than some others and Harrie suspects that the university keeps economy going. In watching the drivers of vehicles, it seems like there are 3/5 of women and 2/5 of men. Harrie is passing through the university student housing area, which is 90% trailers. It's a new way of life in America when everybody lives in a trailer without a permanent home and without owing anything. There is an airport there too so they must teach aviation with small planes. Interesting little sign says \$500 dollars penalty for dumping rubbish on or along the highway. That should apply to all the highways in Fairbanks. Alaska should adopt that one judging from the sight of beer bottles Harrie saw along the road while he was leaving Alaska.

There is a construction project on the freeway. Harrie is coming to the Bell Creek cable bridge. He passes through a motel and a little industrial district. Nice motel called BLPRI is mentioned. Harrie is on the Ohio River and on that bridge is the West Virginia and Ohio state line. It's Parker, Virginia. There is a building that was built out of stone in 1891 that seems like it is made with hand hewn brick. During the night Harrie lost another hour of time and he found a place with no radio reception. Little white daisies bloom alongside the road. Harrie is stopping at a service station. The guy's name is Lou Kiger and he is doing alright. Harrie encountered a person who stopped on the road without even giving a signal. Temperature in the canyon is 86 degrees and it is beautiful green with dirty rusty red water. Harrie

doesn't see anything swimming in it. There are lots of abandoned places and the motels don't seem to be doing well. Harrie is about 250 miles away from Washington D.C.

At 40:33 Harrie says the time is 11:55 and he stopped at Salem, West Virginia. It's another college town with quite a lot of old buildings. The town was chartered in 1784. Harrie had a very good dinner in Salem and coming out of Salem, there are 32 foot roads with speed limit of 50mph, believe it or not. Nobody goes over 30 mph. Harrie is leaving Parkesburg, Virginia, which is quite historical and ancient. He passed a beautiful patch of golden yellow daisies. It's a beautiful road with scatterings of farms and lots of flowers. Elevation 2600 feet. It's called Mountain Road at this point: there are deep bends and it's quite steep. There's a place in California where a trailer or a semi can't make the bend, and Harrie says the bends on the road that are like U-turns. There are lots of green ferns in the canyon and no weeds, just grass and flowers and trees. There is a creek that is called Flag Run and a beautiful campground with about 75 or 100 tables and the trees are all trimmed out as well as the brush and there are flowers. Then Harrie is crossing the Cheap River Bridge and he is down to 1440 foot elevation. There are lots of climbing vines on fences and buildings, green ivy all over the buildings.

Now, at 43:44, Harrie is in the state of Maryland, in Garrett County. He is crossing the Potomac River [?] going into a little unincorporated town. Charo Ridge mentioned at 2932 feet elevation. Time is 3pm on Saturday afternoon. Harrie is at the mountains in 2840 feet elevation. A bit later he talks about Saddle Mountain where Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother was born in 1782 on the east side of the Saddle Mountain. There are scenic viewpoints with telescopes. Harrie is crossing the south fork of the Potomac River. Then he passes through Glasgow, West Virginia. The time is 4:40pm. Harrie is entering Virginia proper. At 7.54, he is in Fairfax which is 20 miles out of Washington D.C.

45:56 The time is 9:15 and Harrie has registered in South Gate Motel in Arlington, Virginia. He has room B 49 and he is ready to unload the car. It is Saturday night, June 22nd and 9pm and Harrie tells that he is going to take the tape out of the machine now. [Break in the recording.]

46:53 Harrie Hughes says he is recording the trip through the Alcan Highway and that he will probably get to Fort Nelson shortly. The time is 4:50 mountain time, 2:50 in Fairbanks time and Harrie is just past mile 444 and he is going down to the beautiful canyon now. Everything is working well. Harrie mentions Peterson Creek and its four bridges called Peterson no. 1, Peterson no. 2 and so on. There is a steep hill in mile 442 and a place known as the Village. There is a roadhouse. Harrie says that the canyon goes right through the heart of the Rockies and there should be gold and sheep there. Hughes is going down the second steep hill. It's really a scenic route. He's at 151 Creek which is at mile 434, 5 and Harrie is going to take a couple of pictures. Now the time is 6:35 and he's at the Tote River service station and he had a tire repaired. He is going to have a cup of coffee and rest for a bit. Now the time is 7:45, Harrie has had something to eat and is ready to continue his trip. Mile is 418.7 and Harrie is crossing the Racing River. Road is loose gravel and it's dusk time, 7:55 Rocky Mountain time.

At 49:44 Harrie is crossing mile 410, and it's McDonald Creek. "Jimmy, this is your creek," Harrie states. He took a couple of photos, but it's getting kinda dark so he took them in F2 and 100. Summit Lake, elevation 4,250 feet, is on snowline and there is snow on both sides of the road. The lake is all thawed

out and it's beautiful green water. The time is 9 mountain time and Harrie is at mile 371. The summit of the Steamboat Mountain is at mile 353. It's about 8 miles from where Harrie hit the first grade. It's getting dark and several trucks have passed. There are tiny little rapids that Harrie calls rock rapids. Down in Texas they'd call them truce [trout?], but the little fellows look like they might be good eating. Road is wet and there is no dust so it looks to Harrie that it has been raining at the Steamboat mountain. Overlooking Mammoth Valley from the mountain, one can see rivers and canyons below.

At 52:50 Harrie states that he just got into Fort Nelson and it was rough on the Steamboat Hill. By the time he got to the summit, it was 30 miles of slippery, muddy and nasty stuff. The car is covered with mud. The time is 9:15 Fairbanks time and 11:15 Yukon time. He had some mud taken off the car. He just passed a scene where a big truck killed a horse and he's just 20 miles outside of the next place. Trutch is his next destination. It was 400 miles of nothing.

Time is 8:30 on June 13th, 1963 and Harrie is at Trutch, Canada. He is having his car serviced and he is getting ready to continue. It was a little muddy this morning. Harrie is at mile 200, and about 49 miles down the road is the next place, and 101 miles to the next place, and 200 miles from Dawson Creek. Elevation at the summit is 4132 feet. Mile 191 from Dawson Creek.

Time is 10 on local time and Harrie just crossed the Bucking Horse River, at mile 172. It is 1:33 and he is having a full stop. From mile 152 he's got good road. It's dry and windy day, it stopped raining and there's no mud. Steamboat Mountain was a stinker, says Harrie. He's seen 3000-4000 horses all along the road and now he sees cows getting closer to Dawson Creek. Harrie suspects that they are herded away from the road. Last night there was a big semi-truck tanker that hit a horse and killed it about 50 miles from where Harrie is right now. Another odd thing is that last 8 or 10 miles Harrie has seen water seeping out of the ground sometimes on both sides of the highway, right out of the side of the hill like an artesian well. Water boils right out of the ground in thousand little places.

58:03 Another thing Harrie observed is that many places are displaying the United States flag alongside of the Canadian flag on the Alcan Highway. He finds that most of the places he has stopped at are far more congenial than they used to be. They are clean, courteous and seem well established. They all seem to be substantial business people. He's on a place at the highway that is wind-blown and dirt is just like pavement, as smooth as it can be. He sees loads of dandelions all along the highway. Traffic is increasing and he is getting close to the Dawson Creek. He's 118 miles from Dawson Creek. He just passed Blueberry in mile 100 and he is almost down to mile 98 from Dawson Creek. The road is a little bumpy at times but it's like cement and Harrie thinks the road is good. Harrie hit his first pavement since leaving Alaska and he's looking for the milepost. It's 80 something. It's a modern highway and the speed limit is 60 mph. It's mile 81 and the pavement started at mile 83. [Music is playing on the radio.]

Fort St. John, British Columbia. He started getting radio around 70 miles out of Dawson Creek. The time is 2:40pm in the afternoon of June 13th, 1963 and Harrie is pulling on Chevron service station in Fort St. John to check the carbonator. The gentleman at the gas station noticed that a tube had broken off and it had to be replaced. Harrie is on his way again. Everywhere he goes on the highways he sees litter warning signs that promise stiff fines and jail sentence for throwing stuff out of the cars in this part of

Canada. Police are on patrol and really watching. The man worked on Harrie's car and the gas and everything was only \$14.9. Harrie notices everybody is working and nobody complains about taxes or anything like that, so they must be reasonable or else there would be lots of beeping because they couldn't pay the enormous phony tax that "we" have to. The road is well marked and Harrie is about 35 miles out of Dawson Creek. He has seen a lot of farms but not a lot of truck farming. It's some kind of grain but Harrie can't see what.

1:04 Harrie states that the time is 4:35 and that he is preparing to have the car washed and cleaned up. He is no. 12 at a motel in Dawson Creek. He rested 11 hours and it's bright and sunny. The time is 7:15 local time. He tells he is ready to leave Dawson Creek, Canada, and it's June the 14th, 1963. He is heading towards Edmonton and Calgary. He just had hot cakes and coffee at the truck stop and it's called Chicken Inn. He is going towards Edmonton and sees beautiful farms. Everybody is working the land there, and Harrie wants to know what the matter is with Alaska, if they are all sleeping, since they have a big valley to develop. He took a couple of pictures of the valley where Dawson Creek is located at and there are nice fields. It's nice sunshine and the temperature is 55 degrees now, at 8:30am. Now the time is 10:45 and Harrie is at Dawson Creek, at Henry's Auto Clinic. He's had the wheels aligned and his car checked out. Charge is \$8 dollars. The man's name is Henry Durkeson [sp?].

[End of the recording.]