

Call number: 02-00-62-34 SIDE A

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

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Series: Harrie Hughes Collection.

Notes: Original on 3 inch reel, master copy printed on CD.

The recording starts by Harry Hughes stating that he had turned the tape over, and that this is side no.2 of no. 4 tape. A little Indian boy took him over to [Ira] Van Bibber's cabin and he has been visiting there for the last couple of hours. Van Bibber has been telling Harry stories. Harrie asked him if he would like to say something for Frank Young and the other old pioneers.

Van Bibber starts by greeting Frank [who apparently is not present] and with prompting from Harry Hughes, he also greets Mrs. Young and all the family. He asks how everything is at their way and if they are coming to see him on 17th. He'll be looking for them now. Again, prompted by Harry, he says he wishes there were whole family there to visit. 10 million dollars people left now, all 40-mile cleaned out [?]. He mutters he doesn't remember now. [Van Bibber is discussing with Harrie but the recording is too quiet to make out what they are saying.]

Discussing Skagway: there were 5 or 6 of them and they heard of the Old Whisky Sulliman [possibly Sullivan sp?]. Old Whisky Sulliman ran whisky on the steamboats. He came into the saloon, Soapy's place, came up and said: "Nudge me, and I've never spoke to the man or [unclear] big burly son of a gun." A fellow there tells him to stop that dog chat, and Ira says: "That's my brother." The fellow wondered if he could hire Ira's brother and Ira said [unclear], he's got no outfit and is just about dead broke, but added that Ira wouldn't mind having a job. Somebody gave Ira a wink that he was taking in liquor, but Ira knew nothing about that. Anyway, Ira's brother got hired.

At 3:30 Ira says they had to pack the liquor over the pass, but when they started over the pass, it was the first outfit and them and the young fellows got together as the young fellows do. They started with their packs together and Tommy, their hirerer [employer?] was ahead. He came to a fellow who was the only one to hold games [gambling?] at the White Pass, on Chilkoot [trail]. Tommy was ahead and he came up and got to play with the fellow. Someone warned Tommy that the game was crooked and that he shouldn't play the man. The game keeper reached into a box and pulled a great [unclear, sounds like: hog] blade and said "no man can call my game crooked." The fellow [who warned Tommy] said he did call the man's game crooked and that he himself is a crook. The game keeper told them that he is coming back in 3 days and doesn't want to see them, and that they are not safe in Skagway either, so they'd better be on move. Ira says he didn't know what the fellow had done, but he never got to the court room and went back to where he came from. [Unclear.] Billy [unclear, sounds like: De Mug [?]] ordered them, and that was a sign that Klondike was open. Billy [unclear?] had a saloon in Seattle and

he was based like Soapy Smith's. Harrie says that was down in Yesler Way, in a town called Yesler. [Mr. Bibbler's story is hard to make out.]

5:55 This fellow came in and put his hand on Ira's shoulder and Ira asked what his name is. John Cross, he said. Van told him it better be something else, and advised him to keep away from him, and that he knows the fellow knows [unclear]. Ira said he didn't have anything to do with it but that they are after him all the same. He [the fellow?] killed a woman, shot her, and Ira was waiting that the gambler would have killed the fellow. He would have killed in a wink.

It was a different thing, but John Cross was around when Soapy Smith was killed. John Cross [unclear]. John Cross was a nice man but Shepard had killed 6 men, his revenuer, at soldiers reunion [?]. He killed John Cross' little brother. It wasn't a fair fight. This woman came to get by with it and when they started shooting, this woman jumped on his way and that the way she died. Ira didn't see it since he wasn't right by when it was done.

Ira and Arthur Sommers [sp?] from West Virginia, who wasn't a relative, were running with this fellow. Sommers went on a lumber train with the fellow. When the shooting was over, the fellows come up to the fellow and ordered him out of town. Initially, he refused to run one damn foot. The fellows said there were 15 revenuers in town and when they hear what happened [they would go after him]. The [shooter] fellow said he couldn't afford to run. Anyway, Arthur Sommers tried to get him run too but the man wouldn't move. Finally an old man came up and called him by name, John Cross wasn't his real name, and told him to get out of there since there were going to be lots of revenuers after him when they find out what happened. Then John Cross left. Ira doesn't know who the old man was.

10:19 John Cross lived in Alaska. Lots of murderers, killers, "here." [Harrie says something unclear.] Ira says that there is a man who lives 6 miles above the farm "down here" who was a recorder in an Igloo and after having made some money, he went outside. He found his wife in a bed with another man, killed them both and came back "here". Webster was his name. He was a nice fellow.

Then there was a murder case of Indians. They went in and told about a murder to old Mission, which acted as a law. He was the judge. He tried the case and then referred it to the Police. [Unclear] murder himself. Quite funny!

[Ira's wife who is called "Shorty" says something unclear.]

At 12:28 Harrie Hughes says that they are at the Pelly River, in Van Bibber's cabin, looking out the window at this beautiful river. Shorty is Van Bieber's wife. Ira talks about liquor and how he used to like it 40 years ago and is offering to open up a bottle. Harrie says he doesn't much care about drinking. Ira says he likes beer when he is thirsty but that he never drinks to get drunk anymore. Harrie says Ira had lots of fun in his life and that he has a big family. Harrie asks how many children he has, Ira says he doesn't know how many grandchildren he has, perhaps 35 or 36.

Ira is still offering Harrie a drink. [Ira talks about something but it's hard to make out what he is talking about.] Harrie gives an account of Van Bibber's numerous children: He has 32 children, grandchildren

and great-grandchildren. Ira is talking about Old Bunnette's trip to outside where he visited somebody with lots of kids, but some other person thought 18 children wasn't much and showed Old Bunnette a family with 23 kids. They were French Canadian.

17:36 Ira still has another story to tell on the recording. He was prospecting for 8 months in the Headless Man Valley, and he was happy and content but not lazy. They had tobacco, tea, and cartridges, all they needed. On very rainy days, when they lived underneath three trees by the river where they hoped to catch some fish, he saw two moose and tried to shoot it but his gun just went "snap, snap" and the moose ran away calling like a grizzly bear. Later he greased the gun with porcupine [fat] so it would fire. They came to a big river with moose trails and the river was flooding so they couldn't cross and had to turn back. Now they call it the West Fork. He was tired of fish and wished he had a piece of meat. Then on a swamp here was a big cow moose and when Ira shot it, it broke the moose's hip. The moose was fat and nice too. Ira washed his hands on a creek but when he dipped his hands into the water it was scalding hot.

22:27 Harry Hughes says they stopped for a minute to watch some people rafting across the Pelly River. There is a man and a woman and they are "really wrestling the oars". Ira talks about how he invited some people over from across the river and while the people were crossing, they met some Indians with their raft, going down [river] with their dogs and their outfit and the travelers wondered what it was. Ira explained that Indians travel by rafts down the stream and the people wondered how they got the raft back upstream. [Unclear.] They were certainly green. They were college fellows.

Harrie Hughes says Ira wants to know if Nick Nichols is alive at the Pioneer Home in Dawson City and promises to find out.

At 24:16 Harrie's travel-log continues. Harrie says he had a four hour visit with Mr. Van Bibber and the family and that he took a couple of pictures of the Pelly River Bridge. It's 8:50pm. He stops at Historic River Roadhouse which is an excellent place to eat and that the time now is 10:30pm and he is going over the Steward River Bridge, heading for Dawson City. The sign says 113 miles to Dawson. Now he is crossing a bridge and everything is going good. The time is 11:40pm and Harrie just saw a black bear lying down on the road. A cute red fox went across the road with his tip tail and eyes shining on headlights. Another little fox went across the road and they are playing like kittens. Yet another fox crosses the road.

The road is a wonderful gravel road. It's not bumpy; there is just a little loose gravel on it. Also, there is fireweed along the road with bluish purple flowers, which means the greatest part of the summer is almost gone and the fall will arrive shortly. More foxes: this time it's a pretty boy baby fox. He's right in front of the car, making 20 mph. He's going to be tired after it, a pretty red thing. Time is now 1am and Harrie is past the Dawson Airport which is 12 miles from Dawson City. The road from Whitehorse comes right by the airport on the gravel piles.

At 28:00 Harrie states that the time is 1:40 and he is at McAllister's Cabin Court where he stayed last year. Harrie will see him in the morning. This morning Harrie got up about 8:30 and had a cup of coffee at McAllister's and then he went to visit Katie McClennon [McClennan?] and went down to a house with

her and took some stuff there. Then he came back and visited with Jack Butterworth and his wife at the store. Then he visited some other people downtown and went back to Katie McGlennon's. He's also going to get his car cleaned up and is planning to stay in Dawson for a couple of days since there is a couple of people he's like to visit. He's taking some pictures. In one a little baby is taking a bath with all her good clothes on, kinda cute. Harrie thinks he is going downtown to visit Klondike Night for a little while. It's 7:10 now.

8pm after having dinner at Monte Carlo, Harrie went to the Klondike Night at the old Opera House where a local talent put on an excellent show. They also had a little movie and played some bingo games with funny money. Also, black jack and all that. The admission was only \$1.50 which Harrie thought to be very reasonable. The folks really put effort in the show. Harrie personally would invite people from all over to go and see it. Now the time is 11:55.

Harrie reports getting up at 7 am and several tourists have come to the McAllister's Log Cabin Court. Some of them Harrie had seen several times along the way and they came to talk with Harrie. Then he went downtown and came back at 9:30 to have coffee with Katie. He visited for an hour or so and decided to see Franklins out at the mine. He saw Glen in town and is now getting ready to head out to the mine. He saw some old cabins, some occupied and some not. A woman's voice answers to his question of how far they are now by saying it's 16 miles. Harrie says it feels like 60 with all the curves. Over the tailing piles, says the lady in the car.

He's with Mrs. Franklin who used to be an old-time Fairbanksian . Her husband had a Cat break down and is going downtown to get some fuel. A woman's voice says: "Hello everybody, this is in Eldorado in Dawson Area, in Yukon Territory. We are on Lucky Swede's Claim and we hope very much that some of the luck of the lucky swedes is gonna rub off on us." She continues that they have a small placer claim with three CATs and they have found one of the biggest nuggets in the area to be found at this time. Glen feels that one of the old-timers probably left it for them. She says how nice has been to visit with Mr. Hughes and wishes good bye and good luck.

At 32:10 Harrie asks Mrs. Franklin about her daughters, their full names and where they are. She mentions two children: Aina Lucille [Ina?sp?] Franklin who was born in 1940 and is now working at the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle and Glenna Murie [Marie? sp?] Franklin was born in 1945 and has graduated from High School and has a scholarship to attend to Seattle University next year. About where she is employed in Dawson. Harrie says he remembers the little girl who used to show him around so that he wouldn't get lost. Time is now 1:05pm, on July 10th, 1963. He will be heading back town shortly.

Harry says he's taken several pictures since he left Franklin's claim on Lucky Swede Claim and they are the Troberg brothers, the president of the Yukon Order of Pioneers and his brother. They are hydraulicing up there and doing some washing. Harry says he's taken several exposures with a telephoto lens since they are up. He's back to Dawson and visited the Dawson Museum which has a fairly good start on the display. Mr. [unclear] Taylor is on board there, helping set up the museum. A number of tourists stopped there and they were very interested in hearing how Fairbanks got their project rolling.

Now this evening Harrie will show some pictures for Mr. and Mrs. McAllister's father and mother who are there for a visit.

At 35:09 Harrie tells that he had quite a crowd of tourists and Mr. and Mrs. McAllister's father and mother were there. Mr. McAllister was a dignified gentleman and Mrs. was a little nice old lady. They had some tourists and some locals and Harrie ran about half of the slides, so they got a little insight on Alaska and Ketchikan and some of the Golden Days parades. Harrie made a mistake considering the day when he was at the Franklin mine: it was July the 9th, and today it's the 10th. It's time to start traveling back to Fairbanks.

Now the time is 9:50am on July the 10th and Harrie has just crossed the Yukon with the government ferry. He is going towards Boundary and the border. The time is 11:50am and Harrie is on 4515 elevation on the road from Dawson City to Boundary. He got to George and Dorothy King's place and saw George Garvison driving a CAT so he took a couple of pictures around there, went in and had a sandwich with Kings and is now on his way. He lost another hour on time change and it's now 1:30 "our time here".

He stopped at Bob McCombe's roadhouse at North Fork, or was it West Fork and Bob is not in but Harrie talked with Dorothy and mother and several other people. Lil Angaman's daughter came in with her husband and Harrie is delivering mail for them so he is on his way again. It's 75 miles from there to Alcan. Now the time is 6pm and he is through Tok. Speedometer reading was 4031 miles from Indianapolis, Indiana where he purchased the car.

At 38:28 Harrie states it's the end of the trip and he's back home. He filled his car with gas and went over to see his landlord. He's ready for bed. He says it's July the 11th, 1963 now, right after midnight and he has completed his 10000 mile trip from Fairbanks to Washington, D.C. and back by the way of Indianapolis, Minnesota, Minneapolis, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, White Horse, Pelly River, Dawson City and Fairbanks. 10595 miles. He's taking it easy right now. [Long silence in the recording.]

At 40:15 recording resumes with Harrie saying it's morning and he had a good interview at a Pioneer Village, just out of Edmonton. It's reel no. 4 of the trip to Washington D.C. and return to Fairbanks. The time is 12:20 and Harrie is on a highway Route 43, Alaska Highway. He learned lots of things and met some good people at the Pioneer Village and he'll be heading towards Dawson Creek, Yukon Territory. Now the time 12:30 and Harrie has arrived to another Pioneer Museum and he is going to stop and take a couple of pictures. He had quite a visit with a lady at the museum. They have a local historical society located there, and she is a member of it too. They hire her for \$45 to look after the museum and keep it open. It's a log structure with a single roof. She has done all the fixing and painting and has made a miniature of a 5-room house with all the furniture and everything. There is a Canadian flag and a U.S. flag under it. She is painting the front porch right now.

Harrie is stopping due to a derailment along the Highway. There are 4-5 cars. Harrie crossed the McLeod River and the Athabasca River and is on his way towards Dawson Creek. A lynx crossed a road in front of him, it's overcast, and the lynx didn't give a chance to take a picture of him. Harrie is crossing House River and sees a nice campground with 50 cars, and sees kids swimming in the river so it must be fairly

warm. He's only seen 3 cars with Alaska license plates. He's been traveling through the oil fields and there is quite a lot of drilling going on. There are many truckloads of pipes and equipment and Harrie sees them assembling rigs. There are camps all over: trailer camps and portable camps. Harrie reports having filled up the gas tank again and is at some historical marker where he met a couple who know a lot of people in Fairbanks. A woman's voice introduces themselves as Dickie and Lyle Crydler who are traveling from Tacoma [Washington]." Lee, if you ever hear this in Fairbanks, hi from us. Don't forget we are thinking about you." Harry prompts her to say hi to the rest of her friends, but the lady is not sure how many other of her friends are still in Fairbanks. She continues: "Larry Meads, this is Dickie and Leeland Crydler," and says that they saw him 25 years ago. "Mannie Olson, if you ever listen to this, this is Dickie from long time ago." Harry says Mannie is quite a night hawk and that he worked at a hotel as a night clerk. Harrie asks if the husband wants to say something but he doesn't so Harrie ends the recording.

[Music playing on the radio] Harrie reports that he is crossing the Smoky River Bridge and there is a campground that is loaded with cars. It's overcast and there has been a few drops of rain but the road is on excellent shape. Next town will be Grande Prairie. There are lightning bolts ahead of Harrie and he saw the first time that lighting makes a complete loop, like a big spiral, and then disappeared. It's 70 degrees at 9 o'clock in Grande Prairie and Harrie is leaving towards Dawson. He just crossed a boundary to British Columbia. There is weighing station and time is 10:05 in mountains Canada time.

At 47:02 it's a morning of July the 5th, 1963 in Dawson Creek. It's 9am, bright and sunshiny. Harrie is awfully sick from something he ate 50 miles earlier. He had a fever but is now ready to move again and see how he feels. He's turning in his key. At 10:45 he is passing through the outskirts of Fort St. John. 871 miles to Whitehorse. The Pavement ends until Harrie gets to the Alaska Border, it's 83 miles north out Dawson Creek. Harry reports still feeling sick. Now the time is 6:10 and two moose crossed the road about 75 feet in front of Harrie. He is getting close to Ft. Nelson, B.C.

9:50pm Harrie has covered about 380 or 390 miles. He went to see two cars that met head on: one is a Cadillac and the other one is a Chrysler. The people are hospital cases. Summit Esso Service Station mentioned, as well as Summit marker at Summit Lake and an elevation marker showing 2240 feet elevation. Harrie sees: snow cap peaks all around, snow lying in all the valleys, a beautiful green lake that looks like it's cold. The temperature is a lot cooler. Another lynx ran across the road and looked at Harrie. The time zone changed and the time is supposed to change from 7 to 8 o'clock. He has entered the Yukon Territory.

At 51:20 Harry tells that he is at Contact Creek Service Station at Mile 590, Yukon Territory. He doesn't see any life there, so it must be 6 o'clock. He filled up at the most expensive gas station in all Alcan Highway, it was 67c a gallon. "That's pretty darn dear for gas." He got a drink at East Spring, and later saw cow moose and a calf running across the road. He is on his way again. The time is 8:05 on the new time and he stopped at a nice little restaurant at Philips Service Station and it's a nice, clean place. A couple of ladies run it and they have very good hot cakes and marmalade. The coffee was excellent and Harry thinks he is getting his appetite back again. Now he's on his way again.

Harrie says it's been quite a long time since he had anything to report on the tape. He wants to describe the road: it's gravel. He's on his way to Whitehorse. There are lots of loose gravel on the road and some pretty blue flowers, bluebells and some other blue flowers. He hasn't seen any game, but there is a Canol Pipeline camp. It's abandoned. There's not much traffic this morning and the time is 9:30. Harrie has adjusted his clock accordingly. It's raining a tiny little bit, just enough to settle the dust. Now the time is 9:44 and Harrie is past Mile 700 out of Dawson Creek, heading towards Fairbanks. He's making excellent time considering the gravel road, and not exceeding the speed limit. Harrie sees beautiful little lakes, a beaver dam and pretty mountains. Passing mile 715.5, Harrie says that there is a Mr. Young's creek since its name is Young Creek. He has seen a rescue with a helicopter from a car on the highway. Now the car is going towards Edmonton as fast as it can go. At 12:45 he passes mile 800 and has crossed the bridge over Teslin Lake. There's quite a village with lots of boats and airplanes and quite a lot of people. He passed an old-fashioned cowboy with a string of horses, herding them along the road. It's been raining hard and it's getting kinda mucky.

Now the time is 4:20 and Harrie is coming into Whitehorse. There are beautiful wild roses along the road and those blue flowers he's seen. It's cloudy but not rainy. Again Harrie lost another hour due to time change and it's 5pm. He's at Whitehorse Car wash and the workers are working fast. Mike and Mied [Mead? sp?] are washing Harrie's car. Then it's Sunday morning, 1963, and Harrie is at Whitehorse. He photographed river boats and the old Yukon Historical Society museum, the big copper nugget, the little White Pass-Yukon sleds and engines, and Sam McGee's cabin. He reloaded his cameras and the time is 7:55am.

Now it's 9am and Harrie has had his hot cakes, sausages and coffee. He took a few more pictures around Whitehorse and it's a little bit overcast. He talked to two [travelers] who were going to Dawson and Fairbanks. Time is now 10:15 and Harrie left Whitehorse. He can see the beautiful scenery that has induced Robert Service and other write prose and poetry about this wonderful country. "But. The things of the past are gone. The worn out boot and the broken wheel are a thing of the past. Now we see an old wreck of a car or an old worn-out tire in this modern day." It's an overcast morning and there is beautiful fireweed and flowers. He can also see fire damage. People should be careful with fire as the old-timers were. They lived here, unlike the present-day people who make one of these trips and don't realize the hazard they carry with them.

1:00:19 Harry says he is driving on a smooth gravel road and that they used to pray for those kinds of roads some 30-40 years ago. There are people today who don't appreciate the improvements and the easy things that they now have. He's rolling along 65 mph in a new car whereas his forefathers walked on foot into this wonderful country. Later Harrie reports that he just saw a musk ox in the trees and that he's a very wooly looking animal. There are patches of pretty wild roses on that elevation: pink and red. There are fields that look like emergency airplane strips. They are covered with fireweed and a thick bed of flowers. The road is smooth and as good as any boulevard. Harrie is about 80 miles out of Whitehorse and it's 4 miles to Carmacks.

Harrie reports seeing a beautiful green mountain with lots of vegetation. He stopped at Carmacks and filled with gasoline. He is on his way to Pelly River to visit Old Van Bibber. He took one picture of the

bridge across the Yukon River at Carmacks. He stopped and took pictures of the White Horse Rapids where the boats used to go through in early days. He stopped at a halfway house between Mayo and Whitehorse, had a cup of coffee and stew. He is losing his appetite traveling. Road is good gravel road. It was raining but now it's sunshiny again and he is getting close to the Pelly River. There are loads of blue flowers. Now he's at the Pelly River Roadhouse and took a picture of it. The folks there are very nice. Mrs. John Nelson introduces herself and says that her and her husband used to prospect. [End of the recording.]