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Economic Development Committee and personal memos in 1962

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Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 7-inch reel, Master copy on CD.

A man's voice says they will celebrate the centennial [of Alaska's purchase] in 1967. A number of bills were passed in the Senate: one of them raised the non-resident fee for polar bear tag from \$150 to \$1500 dollars. It was introduced by Senator Evan Hobson [sp? Hopson?] of Barrow. Bill that would extend the unemployment benefits and improve training skills was introduced by the [Rural?] committee and an appropriation for funds for high schools to be constructed in Point Barrow and in Delta Junction was requested in a bill by Senators George D. [McUnclear?] and Nel [unclear]. They asked for \$350,000 for the school in Barrow and \$200,000 for the school at Delta Junction.

Correlations Committee [?] recommended that the Upper Chamber should defeat a bill proposing a state turns the International Airport over to the City. Three members of that committee who recommended the Bill to pass are Chairman Lester Ro[unclear] of Nome, Senator Paul Dimond of Fairbanks and Evan Hobson [?] of Point Barrow. Governor Egan said that Jefferson Barry [sp?], assistant commissioner of the Department of Revenues, stationed in Anchorage and then re-instated. Barry was suspended without pay in February, due to a pending investigation of charges that were issued to him while he was driving a state vehicle and that he failed to report. [Unclear.] More talking about his fines for reckless driving.

More filings for the legislative seats were reported by the Secretary of the State [unclear], Harold Hanson of Cordova, and the House of Representatives filed for

the Democratic nomination for the new Election District no. 6, Cordova and Valdez. Another member of the house, Robert I. Keptman [?] of Valdez Democrats, representing old election district no. 8, which includes Valdez and Whittier, filed for the Democratic nomination of new election district, Cordova and Valdez. Thomas O'Conroy of Anchorage, files for a Democratic candidate for the House from the new election district no. 8 which is Anchorage. He was second to file for the House from District 8, the first being Louise W. Long from Eagle River who is also a Democrat.

Governor Egan said that Alaska offer Herb Hilscher of Juneau will write the narrative to the Aurora and [unclear] map, representation at Alaska Century 21st exhibit in Seattle. Hilscher has produced two books, Alaska Now and Alaska, USA in collaboration with his wife, Miriam. [Break in the recording.]

Hospital patients are wrapped in paper in the 64th Field Hospital up at Tanacross for Army's annual Mid-Winter Field Maneuver exercise, according to release from headquarters of US Army, Alaska. The patients are helping out to test Army's new paper sheets, blankets made of paper that are tested in Sub-Arctic to test out how they stand up to [unclear, rough?] usage at the field hospital. [Unclear] as comfortable for the patient as cloth products. One of the patients is Private James Shelling [sp?], [from] Jackson, Michigan, a cook with company in the 60th Infantry. "I feel like I'm somebody's birthday gift, all wrapped up without benefit of the ball," he said.

Talking about a parade. A police report of a missing person. Crimes in Airport Way and Cushman Street, car accidents. News about taxis from Fort Wainwright. Other news, recording has several breaks. KFAR Radio.

At 7:33 Harrie Hughes' voice says it's February the 21st, 1962 and the recording is going to be about a Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo no. 4 meeting. The petition for the Pioneer Park project: Reading the petition, in which undersigned ask that the land is given to them in perpetuity. This was the approval of the present [Pioneer's] Appointment Committee on Monday February 5th, 1962. The petition was approved to be in accordance with the Resolutions Committee appointed by President Adolph Stock, Irving Reed, Robert Sheldon, Ted Loftus, Frank D. Young.

Joe Kager and Frank Young had to be excused from the meeting. They had 2,282 names.

Reading who got how many signatures on the petition. After reading the names they are going to eat lunch and after that, they are going to continue.

After lunch they got two more petitions so now they have 2,229 on 44 petitions. Any other petitions can be mailed directly to Juneau. Irving Reed, the chairman, reads names of the appointed committee members: Harrie Hughes, Robert Sheldon, Ted Loftus, Frank P. Young, and Joseph Kager. Talking about a phone call from Juneau where they wanted to know how the Pioneers want the petition to be handled. The speaker poses a question about what to do with the petitions and where the original should be kept.

Harrie Hughes states that it is February 21st, 1962 and he is going to terminate the meeting. Irving Reed has appointed Harrie Hughes to make 4 copies of the petition and also call Juneau to talk to Paul Greimann or Forbes Baker in regards to the petition. He also needs to check Mike Stepovich's office [find out where it is?]. Irwin K. Reeds is going to gather information for a news release for KFRB, KFAR, News-Miner and [unclear] Weekly and TV-station. Then he is to contact Stepovich about an affidavit of certification of the petitions.

Now Harrie reports having made the phone call to Forbes Baker in Juneau. Mr. Baker told them to hold the original petition [in Fairbanks] and send photo fax copies to Juneau. Harrie will send 3 copies: One for Baker, one for the Senate and one for the Governor. Tomorrow they will notarize the petition and notify the Land Office and Federal Land Office.

At 19:10 Harry Hughes introduces his personal memorandum: February 21st, 1962. Harrie mentions a letter from his old friend, George King, which is addressed to Frank Young. Frank is going to read it on the tape. Frank's voice starts: "Eagle, Alaska, February 8th, 1962. Mr. Frank Young, Geographic Board, Alaska." The letter opens by congratulating Frank on his appointment to the Geographic Board and says that the governor couldn't have found a better choice.

[More compliments.] George asks that Frank helps him with the nit-wits at the postal service who send sacks full of Eagle River's mail to Eagle City.

Frank says he already took the matter up with Postmaster Ollikainen who said he'd look into it. Hopefully mail doesn't get mixed up anymore. George writes that various radio broadcasters could be helped by Geographic Board in pronouncing names of various villages correctly and that if Frank needs any help in digging up any old geographic data, Frank only needs to ask. He also writes that he has followed the Pioneer Park case closely and that "that cheechako mayor needs a little lesson in sourdough ethics." If it wasn't for "us old-timers," he wouldn't be the mayor. George wishes the best to all the Pioneers of Alaska and hopes to see Frank at the Dawson Festival. Seattle Fair is also going on.

Frank says he is going to give some early day information on Pioneer George King who now resides at Eagle, Alaska but has the boundary roadhouse on Taylor Highway that goes from the Alaska Highway to Yukon [Frank must mean that the other way, since Boundary is not on Taylor Highway.] He first knew George in Fairbanks in 1920s. He had come into the country as a young flyer. He used to fly planes during the first war over Germany and France. He came in with the Faulkner Company, the airplane company. That was in early days when Noel Wien arrived here. George did considerable amount of flying around the interior and he's one of the first pilots "in this part of Alaska."

Around 1925 Frank wrote a play and it's called Within the Circle in which George played a part in. It was 12 in the cast and it took 2 hours to show it. Frank and George became good friends and they used to put on home talent shows for recreation during the winter months when they had no televisions or radios, but just the old Edson Phonograph. The few of them that were left in the community during the winter used to enjoy themselves. George's brother has a trading store in Haines. Frank can't remember his brother's first name, but they are both members of the Pioneers of the Alaska. George is interested in Pioneer history. Frank forgot to mention that George used to talk about Harrie Hughes and that they were friends too. February 21st, 1962.

Irving McK Reed adds a little bit of history about George King and his brother in the Fairbanks –area. Irving says it's not really a life history but rather the history of Sportsman Association. When Irving was surveying Gold Stream [Creek?] in the spring of 1925, Sam White was working for the Coast and Geodetic Survey and was staying in a Whitehorse Smith's [?] roadhouse near Fox. Sam talked about the game in the northern Maine where he was from, and said that the deer did fine in -50 below weathers and 5-foot deep snow there, so perhaps they'd live well in Tanana Valley if they could be brought in. When Irving got back to town, he couldn't forget about the deer, but started talking to the fellows. They put money together to try to bring in some white tail deer from Maine. Larry Palmer and another man who was living with him suggested they start a game association and put the legislature together to get the animals. They started Tanana Valley Game Protection and Propagation Association and George King was the 1st secretary of the organization, Irving being the first president. They got \$20,000 dollars by the efforts of Fred Johnston who was in the legislature, to bring in game animals. They wanted to get white tail deer, and then elk and Donald McDonald suggested buffalo.

They got buffalo right away because they were available in Montana. That was in 1926. When they went to get the elk and deer they got opposition from the Biological Survey which was a forerunner of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington D.C. They got into a huge fight over the elk and Irving tried for 13 years to get elk [to Alaska] and so he stayed in Alaska Game Commission from 1927 to 1940, trying to break down opposition. The man in the opposition, whom Irving won't name, was a well-known biologist who tells the people in Alaska what to do even when he's not a resident of Alaska. He said that the elk might crowd out the caribou. Talking more about the dispute between them. They got elk to Kodiak Island but because somebody opposed them, they had to be moved to Afognak Island. After the elk were moved, Kodiak people went through as strenuous effort to get them back than they did to get them out but it was too late. They also had elk put onto Ketchikan and to Krusoff Island. The Indians killed off the elk on Krusoff Island. About pioneers who killed a great big buck while deer hunting.

The buffalo were successful and Irving hopes they won't be lost due to mismanagement. Maybe in 10 years they could have an open season for buffalo. More talking about elk management in Afognak and that they need them bad in the interior. [Harrie says something unclear about wildlife in the Interior.] Irving says that [unclear] Townson was with the federal salmon industry along the Yukon River. Irving doesn't know what he had to do with the other business. Talking about the club that was doing fine until George King left Outside and nobody wanted to take his place as the secretary which caused the club to die down within few years. Later it was started up again as a Sportsmen's Association. Irving says it's February 22nd, 1962 and he has been 63 years in Alaska in May. His birthday is in July 13th, 1889.

Irving Reed says that the man's name he couldn't remember was Frank Dufresne. He came to Nome as a biologist and traveled on the rivers towards Fairbanks with a team of all-white Siberian Huskies that he later sold to Julian Hurley. The man who brought the buffalo in from the Outside was a known cattleman [unclear] Perkins. Harrie asks about a picture of the dog team. Irving says it is the end of that comment.

At 35:32 Harrie says there is one more little report on the Pioneer Park. Chairman Irving Reed and Harrie Hughes sent the three copies of the petition down to Juneau. They wrapped them individually and took them to Pan-American Cargo and they should arrive in Juneau with the Saturday afternoon flight, on February 24th. The charge was \$3 dollars for a package to Juneau. February 22nd.

Somebody [in TV?] is talking about a secretarial training course that is badly needed in the community. The business people need it as well as the UAF. They are already seeing the benefits of the program in the 19th Election District Economic Development committee in the ARA-Program.

Their preliminary OEDP has been accepted by the governor's office in Juneau by the ARA department in Washington. This makes them eligible for "these things" but there is a slight hitch: It's not always Christmas in Washington and there are days when one has to give a little. This is one of those times. In order to remain eligible under the ARA-program, the 19th District Committee must come up with a

comprehensive OEDP and the deadline date according to Mr. Bath is December 22, in 1962 because on December 22, 1961 their general OEDP was accepted and approved by Mr. Bath's office so they had one year and they attempted to do that much before, in December 22. They are working on it now as a matter of fact, and they will continue to until it's completed which they hope is somewhat ahead of the target date. There is another facet to the program that the people should be made aware of: the preparation of the OEDP by Outside researchers would cost \$20,000-25,000 dollars. By using local researchers who are plenty at the University they can prove that they have the nucleus for a research center that they need in Alaska to cover many areas. By using local talent and research material they are going to get the job done with \$4-5,000 dollars. In addition, all the research people will be "here" to aid the program once the OEDP is completed and the projects activated. By using local research sources, they will get a broad background of the knowledge and conditions peculiar to the problems as well as possibilities of development in the 19th Election District. About a mimeographed document that is available at the Chamber of Commerce building for a nominal price which covers the cost of reproducing the material. It contains a great deal of information of their community, 19th Election District. It contains information of the make-up of the committee, and the description of the area. That's the preliminary.

A comprehensive is being worked on, and it will be a blueprint of action "for this part of Alaska." The speaker wants to show what they are talking about because of a request from some people who were watching the show. He shows a map of the State of Alaska and explains that the heavy line marks the election district that is being used as boundaries for the program that was designed by the outstanding citizens. It has been recommended by the state that the 19th District and the 20th District should be combined into one large voting district. The comprehensive plan OEDP, Overall Economic Development Program has been prepared to cover both areas in anticipation of having them joined together in near future.

There will be candidates for the secretarial training school and various economic development programs from up and down the road to Delta Junction, Tok and North Pole, which are all participating in the program. Another speaker [?]

addresses Bob and says it might be significant to point out that this [OEDP?] is what they have to think of at the moment. Bob continues by telling about history of colonial governments who funded development in undeveloped areas, and says that Alaska's undeveloped resources are now getting aid. Bob mentions details of 19th Election District as they are in the blueprint. In 1960 Census there were 43,000 people in the district, not including the military people. There are 6,000 people at work, but it varies. In June of 1960 there was 9,500 people working and in March 1961 there were 6,400. Differences between high and low employment is a substantial figure. Construction has the major employer; the second is trades and services. People out of work are people not employed at their highest level of capacity. More about unemployment that needs to be dealt with. Reasons for unemployment: excessive transportation costs, the termination of placer mining, the influx of new settlers, high cost of labor, lack of adequate market facilities, extreme undercapitalization which means the lack of money to develop businesses that would employ people and high cost of power. At the present time they should have 1,500 new jobs. In addition, colleges and high schools turn out 300 more people into the labor force each year. They have a plan of action on how to create those jobs in the community: New jobs come from the development of existing resources and for every 25 new resource jobs they can create, there will be 75 new service jobs, excluding military service jobs. Resources to be developed would be in mining, milling and [unclear]. They have a plan for mining development, petroleum and coal development. Forestry and agriculture are encouraged through financial and technical assistance, and these include lumbering, peat development, food and freezing processing plants, cannery and possibly Christmas tree exports from the area. Tourism needs hotels, motels and campsites, tourist attractions in way of museums, monuments, and perhaps an Aviation Hall of Fame for Fairbanks. They need winter sports and develop it to be year-round thing rather than seasonal: Ski, curling, carnival, dog-sleds, and developing facilities for the activities. The other speaker says that Chuck West was in town and brought up that Alaska needs housing for tourists and to get adequate housing needs \$20 million dollars, which doesn't come on short-term fat interest money but they need long-term low interest money and have to have government participation. They have a tailor-made organization to

help them with that. Monies will be available for bona fide projects to help build facilities. [Breaks in the recording make it hard to hear.] The talking ends.

[Music. End of the recording.]