

H75-02

Lucy Cuddy

Anne Dimond Reilly

March 26, 1965

Re: her memories of Anthony and Dorothy Dimond

Lucy Cuddy came to Valdez in 1916 to work as a school teacher. She knew Anthony and Dorothy Dimond as a neighbor. Anthony was the mayor of Valdez several times. They all had cesspools and a lot of people would release their sewage into the creek. The town council decided not to allow this anymore. Anthony was the first to build a cesspool for his wastewater. Anthony was always very law abiding and honest. Lucy said he had a great sense of humor too. The house that Dorothy and Anthony moved into originally belonged to Dorothy's mom (Mrs. Miller). Lucy talked about taking boat trips and being impressed with how helpful Anthony was with cooking and cleaning. Dorothy would say that was because he had prospected and knew how to clean up.

Anthony worked as a lawyer and Warren Cuddy was the district attorney at the time. They were gone a great deal of the time on business. Dorothy and Lucy would have a lot of picnics. One early September they took the kids and the two new teachers for lunch. They went across the dike and lunched on the beach. Another time they went to Bridal Veil Falls and they took Blanch Brown's mother and sister.

Lucy said that when President Harding came to Valdez in 1922. The mayor wanted Anthony to take him out to Bridal Veil Falls. President Harding had come to drive the golden spike on the railroad between Seward and Fairbanks. It was a last minute gesture that they came to Valdez. The president had his own ship, the Henderson.

Anne talks about her mother making her father quit chewing tobacco before they were married.

Lucy talked about being on their boat and Anthony was steering and hit a point of land that ran out into the water. They hit the point and were grounded. Anthony jumped out and pushed the boat off and jumped back into the boat.

Anne asked about how much time it took for boats to get to Valdez from Seattle. Lucy said it took seven days to get here depending on how much freight was on the ship. The outside newspapers were quite old by the time they arrived in Valdez. Many times they didn't have a local newspaper. They did keep up with the styles. They ordered clothes from the Lord and Taylor catalog. Anthony and Dorothy were coming back from the legislature in Juneau. They dressed up for a dinner party in Valdez that Viola Sullivan gave. Anne remembers the adult ladies dressing in pajamas and coming for parties. Lucy remembers Dorothy making a garden in her yard one of the only gardens in Valdez. She always had flower beds. She knew where the wild violets were. She knew where all the berries and wildflowers grew. Lucy and her husband grew a rock garden with wildflowers from the summit.

Lucy talked about Anthony being very patriotic. He was running for delegate for the first time and was flying up to Fairbanks. The float plane landed and the propeller hit him on the shoulder when he left the plane and he was hospitalized in Fairbanks. He had survived a gun shot to the leg when he was a younger man. He once almost ran off the dock and hit the railing and hung off the dock.

Lucy said Dorothy was a good cook. Dorothy taught Lucy how to bake. They talked about what a good appetite Anthony had. No one talked about diets at that time. Lucy talked about cooking on a coal range. Dorothy had the first electric stove in town. Anne talked about the power being so erratic in Valdez that you had to keep the coal range too. Lucy remembered having a tea kettle on the coal range all the time. Anne and Lucy talked about what kind of cook Dorothy was. Dorothy liked to cook everything from scratch.

Lucy talked about Anthony being neat and careful. All the children wore coveralls at the time. Anthony would always carry safety pins to pin up the overalls when there was a missing button.

Lucy talked about the road from Fairbanks to Valdez. It was called to Valdez Fairbanks trail. It was just a one way road. It was first just a packers trail. There were roadhouses along the way about every ten miles. The only roadhouse that is left is the Sourdough. You would make twenty miles a day with horse teams or dog team. Every seven or ten miles there was a log house to stop and rest. One morning Anthony and other men who were going to prospect in the fields started out together. They reached Camp Comfort for lunch and drove on to Workman's place for the night. One of the group was an Englishman who didn't want to sleep on the roadhouse beds because of the vermin and slept in his own tent. The manager of the roadhouse, Pete Cashman said "Well I'll tell you how it is, some brings them and some takes them away and just how I'm fixed tonight I can't say." There always was the possibility catching bed bugs and lice. Lucy talks about the ten years difference between Anthony and Dorothy. When he first came to town he was nineteen and Dorothy and friend were just pests. He came to Valdez to prospect with Joe Murrey in 1906. Years later Anthony returned to Valdez and Dorothy was all grown up.

Lucy taught for one year in Valdez. Her husband came up to Valdez to operate the Valdez Mercantile. He later started practicing law when Harding was president. They mention the different presidents who have come to Alaska: Harding, Johnson, Roosevelt, Hoover, Truman and Kennedy.