

H75-03 Orah Dee Clark and Florence Hoffman  
Anne Dimond Reilly, interviewer  
1965  
Re: Anthony Dimond.

Orah remembers the first time she met Anthony Dimond. She met him in Juneau during a legislative session, perhaps in the 1920s. He was the lawyer for the Kennecott Mine and would visit the mine once a month. Orah remembers coming to the Kennecott late in the year for teaching. All of the tables had been arranged for seating before she arrived and she had to sit at the head table. She sat with Mr. Needing the manager of the mine.

Orah talks about Anthony Dimond going to Washington, D.C. and how that changed his attitude about Alaska. He became an ardent Alaska. Lucy was teaching at Kennecott camp in the years 1924-1925. At that time they had two teachers and thirteen students. The students were from first grade to high school.

Orah remembers being questioned about a petition at the courthouse. There was a petition with her name and Judge Anthony Dimond to renew the last chance liquor license. Their names had been falsely attached to the petition. Anthony Dimond took it with good nature.

Anne comments that her father had vision for the future even when people at the time saw no need for Alaska becoming a state. He saw the need for Alaska.

Orah talks about drinking coffee and tea. She was very devoted to her brand. Anthony Dimond teased her about being an old-timer and set in her ways.

Anne made the comment that Anthony Dimond was sent to Alaska to help the state. Orah said some people believed Anthony Dimond was a corporation lawyer and would always be a Guggenheim man. Orah said most people believed that the Guggenheim's were not here for Alaska. They were located in Kennecott and shipped to Cordova. Anne asked about Chitina. Orah said they built a new bridge every year after the ice went out and removed the bridge every year. The two towns of Chitina and Kennecott were connected by the railroad. There was a roadhouse in Chitina that was a stopping point on the railroad from Cordova. The first year Orah went to Tanana in 1910 a radio tower was constructed.

Anne introduces Orah Dee Clark as a retired schoolteacher. She came to Alaska in 1906.

Orah talks about the dogs keeping the trails open for the telegraph lines. Once radio was put in the dogs were no longer needed.

Orah talks about working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a teacher in Tanana in 1910-1912. She had all Native students. The army had a fort in Tanana.

Anne and Orah talk about the idea of Rampart Dam. Orah thought Anthony Dimond would be able to see the possibilities of dam. Anne thought it would provide electricity for Alaska and Canada.

Anne asks Orah about coming to Alaska in 1906. Orah said she came through Valdez on the Iliana. She met Judge Bunnell who came to Alaska and was in charge of the schools in Valdez.

Orah talks about why she isn't a member of the Pioneers of Alaska. She feels that you are a pioneer only if you have lived here for a long time. She talks about the prejudices of people against Native Alaskans.

Florence Hoffman talks about coming to Alaska in 1916. Her husband Frank was already up here in 1888. He left for a year to farm in Alaska

but returned to Alaska. He came to prospect for gold. It was during the gold rush. He came to Valdez and Cordova. He worked for the city of Valdez as a policeman and a fireman. He was appointed a U.S. Marshall in 1913. They went to the Shoshana country. There was a new strike in the area. Frank Hoffman went in as U.S. Marshal and Anthony Dimond was the U.S. commissioner. When people filed their claims there was a legal record of it. They were the law and order.

Anne talks about her father shooting himself by accident. He was alone on the trail but was able to return to the mining camp. He was packed out on horses and a boat was built to ride down the Copper River. He was moved to the Cordova hospital. He was in the hospital for nine months. After the accident he went to Shoshana country in the interior of Alaska.

Florence talks about her husband's sense of humor.

They left the Shoshana country and went to Anchorage. Anchorage had started in 1914-1915. It was started as a railroad town. Florence talks about the Whitney family and their farm. They also had a place that served meals. Lily Brown took up a homestead on Ship Creek.

Florence came to Alaska in 1916 from Seattle. It took ten days to get up to Alaska by boat. She married Frank that same year.

Florence talks about the tent town in Ship Creek. There were quite a few places established in Anchorage. Supplies would come in to Anchorage by boat until November.

Florence talks about judges coming over to Anchorage from Valdez a couple of time a year for court. Florence remembers Judge Dimond coming over to Anchorage. He had studied to be a lawyer when he was in the hospital. He always came to visit with Florence and Frank when he was in Anchorage. Florence's husband died in 1937.