

taped by Neville Jacobs

1 hour

Jim Binkley

Pedro Monument, address to Pioneers of Alaska

June 1974

George P. Kauffman interviewed briefly at end of tape.

Tape opens with Bob Huffman addressing Pioneers at

Pedro Monument during Golden Days Ceremonies, June, 1974.

Huffman talks about Ina Uotilla who had just been named queen regent for 1974 by the Pioneers. He reads a resume of the life of the Uotillas; then he introduces and reads the biography of the King Regent Einar "Red" Anderson.

Huffman next introduces Anchorage Queen Regent Nellie Johansen with a quick biography, then follows an introduction of Anchorage King Regent Emmet Cavanaugh.

Follows next an introduction of officers of the Pioneer Igloo and Huffman reads a list of pioneers who arrived in Fairbanks before 1908.

A boutonier is presented to Bobby Sheldon, 91 years old, then speaker Jim Binkley is introduced. Huffman reads a list of riverboats and captains and gives some notes on their operations.

He says Binkley follows in their footsteps; Jim Binkley was born in Wrangell, Alaska, May 16, 1920. Jim's father was an upper Yukon captain, formerly an Ohio River pilot, who came to the Yukon in 1898.

Binkley takes the stand and traces riverboating from Russian exploration of Alaska to the present when he operates a riverboat for summer tourists out of Fairbanks.

Binkley talks about the life and personality of Charlie Adams, captain of the Lavelle Young, with whom Binkley worked when Adams was in his 80's.

Captain George Black^{is} recalled as a captain under whom Binkley worked, then Binkley continues to narrate names of other captains he knew and incidents, personal recollections of stories they told him. Binkley discusses the character of the riverboat men he knew and describes various experiences with them.

The address is a lively and entertaining recounting of riverboat history as Binkley experienced it. He gives many specifics about riverboating personalities and events, and in insight into the personalities or character of the men who worked on the boats, although the address itself is something less than ten minutes.

The recorder continues to run through the ceremonies; after the ceremonies background conversation comes in, then follows a brief interview with George P. Kauffman. Kauffman came in 1926, worked at Fish Creek where he was in charge of operations. He describes dredging operations on Fish Creek briefly.

Series: Tanana Yukon Historical Society Tapes