

Mrs. Harry Swank  
Anchorage

Interview by N. Jacobs  
Glenmore nursing home  
Anchorage- Sept. 1974

Mrs. Harry Swank is confined to a wheel chair because of paralyzation from the waist down, I was told by a nurse at the home; she said that Mrs. Swank had been injured in a hunting accident in the 1950's.

Mrs. Swank is a slender woman about 60 who once stood tall and straight. She owned a gift shop on Anchorage's Fourth Avenue across from the Post Office. Before the tape was completed she said she had to leave to oversee the afternoon refreshment time. She declined to have her picture taken.

Mrs. Swank tells how the three Swank brothers came to Alaska; Harold, Albert and Harry, her husband. Harry came first in 1934. Another married on the ship coming north; another came as a stowaway.

Harry worked for the railroad. Mrs. Swank came up from Seattle to join him in 1936. Mrs. Swank mentions that she was born and raised in China of missionary parents; she was always active in Methodist or community church affairs.

Her husband was with the railroad for 12 years, then went into the plaster contracting business.

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