

Stanley Young age 68?
 artist, miner, builder
 Fairbanks now; Juneau, Kennicott,
 Chisana gold fields--50 years in Alaska

Interview by Neville Jacobs
 Fairbanks, June, 1974

3 hour tapes

When he was about 18, ^{in 1924} Stan Young left his home in Yakima, Washington and went to Seattle. With another young man, Joe Morgan, he bummed his way north to Coddova. The two finally got jobs at Kennicott and Stan worked there for two years. At Kennicott, he teamed up with another partner, Barney, and they moved on to the Chisana gold fields.

Stan describes working at Kennicott to raise money for the trip to Chisana, then digresses to tell about Barney. Barney was raised by Doug McKinney who owned a roadhouse in the Forty Mile Country.

Stan and Barney packed in to the Chisana and had many experiences mining, trapping and with the miners in the village where they lived year round.

Stan talks about methods of mining and trapping at length.

On Tape Two, Stan tells about encounters with animals, bears especially, during the time he lived and trapped and mined in the Chisana.

He narrates an experience when he trekked from Chisana to Chitina. He stopped over at Indian camps, shared their hospitality, and was feasted by them as an honored guest. He slept on caribou mattresses and under their finest Hudson Bay blankets, and on parting, they showered him with gifts. "That's the way the Indians were, in those days," he explains.

Mid-end of tape 2 returns to mining at Chisana, then turns to a move to Fairbanks, then to his running the trading post at Healy Lake for awhile. (See tape by Ted and Babe Lowell for Healy Lake trading post stories also)

Tape Three: continues with Healy Lake Trading Post.

Conversation switches back to the Alaska Juneau mine where Stan worked in the 1920's during the time he was raising his grubsteak to go mining in the Chisana. Here he describes the "drilling and caving system" used at the Alaska Juneau mine, where they blasted the ore then removed it by train.

Stan worked in several areas of the A-J mine--conversation is both informative and entertaining as he tells the events that led to his becoming a crane operator.

Stan then tells how he also became a painter. He was always interested in painting, he says. In 1934, in Fairbanks, he knew Ted Lambert. Lambert referred him to Eustace Zeigler in Seattle for study. Stan went to see Zeigler, but Zeigler was no longer taking students, and referred him to James Fitzgerald. Stan studied with Fitzgerald for a year, from 1934 to 35. He ran out of money in 1935 so came back to Fairbanks. He began building then and didn't have time to paint again until 1957. He took it up seriously again then. (Heart attack? Stan has a serious heart condition and has had for several years.)

Stan is married to a part Athabaskan woman and they have several teen-age children who have shown outstanding courtesy and pleasantness whenever I visited to interview Stan. Stan is also well respected as an artist in the Fairbanks area.

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