

More on Donald McDonald...he worked out of Juneau, the head offices. He is called the "Father of the Alaska Highway".

Talk about the Pioneers Home in Fairbanks. The old timers who were highway engineers here in the fourth district: William A. Hesse, the first engineer; Leonard Smith; Frank Metcalf; Irving McK. Reed.

Gets on the subject of smoked salmon which leads to price of few cents a pound that the Road Commission used to pay for it along the Yukon River. Fed it to the dogs the Road Commission kept for dog trail maintenance work. Nash tells about a dog team trip he and McDonald made once from Chatanika (a truck hauled them and their dogs that far) to Circle, up the Yukon to Eagle, across land to Tanacross and into Fairbanks. They were checking on the conditions of the trails, if they were being used, etc.

Only river trips he made were from Nenana to Ruby once. Another time a vacation trip from Circle to Eagle and back to Circle.

(more)

Nash talks about Gen. Steese...was a colonel and eventually a general in the Alaska National Guard. That is where Col. Noyes got his title, too, Nash says (National Guard). Nash says the Alaska Road Commission was created by Congress in 1903 and Capt. Wiles P. Richardson was the first in charge. Then came Steese and then Maj. Elliott. About 1931 the War Department turned the operation over to the Department of Interior. Interior turned it over to the Bureau of Public Roads in 1951 or 1952. With statehood highways have been a state function (statehood attained legally on Jan. 3, 1959).