

ORAL HISTORY 78-40-03

Pioneer Women of Alaska

Mike Dalton, interviewer

Clara Rust (husband Jess)

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In 1948 the queen regent was Minnie Brewis mother of Barb Lindberg, Gladys Sams and Henry Brewis and two sons from a former marriage. King regent that year was R.C. Rothenberg.

Minnie Brewis walked over the Chilkoot Trail in 1897 or 98. In 1949 Pioneers of Alaska chose Laura O'Flannigan whose husband was a captain of a boat that traveled up the Chena and Tanana Rivers. King regent that year was Emo Van Rays who raised rabbits and sold them. He started Russian pea vines and chokecherries in town.

In 1950 Barbara Weiner and John Vick were queen and king regents. John Vick was a miner and Barbara was the widow of Adolph Weiner. Irene McKenzie King and Lil McKenzie Angerman were Barbara's daughter. Barbara once took both daughters by dog team from Nenana to Fairbanks. After Barbara married Mr. Weiner she had two more children, Louise Tufford and Chuck Weiner.

In 1951 Adrianna Coyle and James Barrick were the queen and king regents. Adrianna met and married Dennis Coyle. James Barrick was married to Ruth Barrick. Jim Barrick worked for a company that sold Sampson tools (Sampson's Hardware) with his father. In 1952 Stella Herring and Ed Crawford were queen and king regents. Stella married Boyd Herting. Ed Crawford worked in Nancy Hardware Store and had a cabin at 5th and Noble.

In 1953 Dorothy Green and Frank Young, Sr. were queen and king regents. Dorothy had come from Juneau with her husband who worked for the F.E. Company.

In 1954 Nugget Garrity Hudson was queen regent. She is Clyde Garrity's mother. Her mother was Mrs. Charles S. Johnston who came north in 1898 and her brothers were Olaf, Jay and Fred Johnston. Robert McCannon was the king regent in 1954. He was married to Thea and homesteaded on Badger Road.

In 1955 Agnes Thomas and Bobby Sheldon were queen and king regents. Agnes was married to Merle Thomas who ran the mortuary. Her sons were Bruce, Merle Jr. and Bob. Agnes worked a great deal for the Red Cross. She was a guest at the Pioneer Home with Clara. Bobby Sheldon moved to Seattle.

Mike and Clara talk about Helen Husack. Gus Conrad was a trapper and a miner.[Queen and king regents for 1956?]

Ruby Clark was queen regent in 1957 and was originally from Nenana. Shorty Wallace was king regent in 1957. He was a stage driver for the route between Fairbanks and Valdez. Mike talks about Dick Callahan who was also a stage driver.

In 1958 Clara Rust was elected queen regent. E.B. Collins was king regent. His first wife, Faye was a school teacher. He was a successful attorney and tried mining. His second wife was "Tilly" Tillison from Manley Hot Springs. E.B. Collins was also a legislator.

In 1959 Annie Creamer was queen regent and Peter Staeger was the king regent. Olga Staeger

was his daughter.