

ORAL HISTORY 78-40-04

Pioneer Women of Alaska

Mike Dalton, interviewer

Clara Rust (husband Jess)

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In 1960 the queen and king regents were Ira and Sarah Purkeypile. Their daughter Norma Purkeypile Taos worked at the Pioneer Home for a while.

In 1961 the queen and king regents were Joan Vemetti and Lewis Johnson. Lewis Johnson would build the ice sculptures for the winter carnival.

In 1962 Eva McGown and Ed Ferrell were queen and king regents. Ed was married to Rebecca. Eva died in the Nordale Hotel fire in 1972.

In 1963 Helen Carlyle was the queen regent. She belonged to the Pioneers of Alaska first auxiliary in Nome. She was a school teacher and later worked as a court reporter in the federal building. The king regent was Irving Reed. He was a miner, surveyor and had been a commissioner of highways when Alaska was a territory. His wife was an artist.

In 1964 the queen and king regents were Muriel Herring-Johnson and Harry Avicoff.

Muriel had a summer home on Harding Lake. They return in the summers to Harding Lake.

In 1965 Amante Hanson and Willie Seguin were queen and king regents. Amante was living in Arizona and returns to Fairbanks in the summers. She spent time in the town of Chena.

In 1966 Mary Agbaba and Alan Humphreys were queen and king regents. Mary Agbaba was married to Mike Agbaba.

In 1967 the queen and king regents were Adrianna Coyle and Dave Adler. It was the year that the Taylor Highway was opened.

In 1968 Eleanor Reed and Sig Wold were queen and king regent. Sig had a storage and delivery business. He and his wife Betty ran apartments, too.

In 1969 queen regent was Mary Bojanich and the king regent was Mike Kovac. Mary died in 1973.

In 1970 Millie Rothenberg and Sam O. White were the queen and king regents. They traveled to Anchorage as queen and king.

In 1971 Grace Harkness and William Schaeffer were queen and king regents. Her daughter is Mrs. Ditman. Mike talks about writing a story for the News-Miner when Grace and Bill were the regents. Bill Schaeffer's wife was Linda. She worked as the secretary for the Grand Igloo.

In 1972 Mary and Adolph Stock were queen and king regents. Adolph worked for the Nordale Hotel for many years. Mary Stock was from Germany.

In 1973 Lena Fifths and Jack Linck were queen and king regents. Mike and Clara discuss the 1973 regents election.