

Carl Parker tries to get Ben to tell about walking out of the Coldfoot region...but Ben rambles on and on and back and forth about going up the Koyukuk, etc.

All the country up Coldfoot way was staked so Ben hiked out to the Yukon, striking the river about 100 miles above Rampart City...in the Yukon Flats.

Tape is constantly interrupted by guests. Purposely left the tape recorder running to get the whole party. We encouraged Ben to eat his fried chicken. Passed the bottle of Calverts around a couple more times.

Talks about his wife briefly...Annie Laurie. The two knew each other in Ontario when they were children. Ben tells his guests that he enjoys visitors very much but he is hard of hearing and his memory is very bad. Mentions his violin and playing it occasional when he gets lonely. Talks about getting his own wood and shoveling his own snow.

Talks about not wanting to ask for help from anybody. Jack Linck urges him to ask the Pioneers of Alaska if he ever needs any assistance in any way. Linck tells Ben that he is leaving left over food for Ben and Carl Parker (who mines just a short distance away) who is also batching it part of the time.

Back to the walk to the Yukon. Ben said he found an old boat buried in the sand. Spent a couple days digging it out and repairing it. Found some old rags that he calked holes with. Then he drifted down river to Rampart city, a bustling boom town then, he said. He got work as a carpenter. Citizens of Rampart sent a man by dog team to Chena to check out the reported gold strike (Pedro had discovered gold in July 1902). Ben's arrival in Rampart was late summer of 1903. Ben said the man returned and confirmed that Pedro had found colors and a stampede to Chena and Fairbanks followed. Ben said he partnererd up with another man whose name he can not recall. The two of them "necked" a sled with supplies to Chena. He had no horse or dogs so it was pulling (necking) and one pushing over the trail.