

DeWitt Fields  
on  
Kodiak Since World War II

by  
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At Mr. Fields' Home

University of Alaska, Anchorage  
Kodiak College  
Oral History Report

I'm Dewitt Fields, here in my home tonight, in Kodiak. I've lived in Kodiak 44 years, going on 45. It's been my home these many years. I've seen a lot of changes. When I first came to Kodiak in 1949, I believe 1700 people lived in Kodiak. We were just going into a mayor/committee type of government. We had an elected mayor and the council members pretty well ran the city. Each would take a separate responsibility. One would be in charge of the police department, one in charge of the roads, and one in charge of the utilities and different functions of the city. I remember going to some of these early council meetings, some of them got pretty hot. I remember one night they got into quite an argument, one of the citizens attending the meeting, he pushed one of the council member's head through the plastic wall in the city hall.

That old city hall is still around. It's out Mission Road, today it is the front part of the Church of Christ, that used to sit down here as our city hall. And there was a pretty nice hill here, it was solid rock. The city hall sat on that and the federal jail. But after the earthquake and tidal wave that was all removed. Blasted out and moved out. And today the Elk's sits where the old city hall and jail set. But, today we have too much government, we have the borough manager and city manager and borough assembly and city council. We're actually plagued with a lot of people on the government payroll. But a little town the size of Kodiak doesn't need all that government. In fact, I talked to one of the old families, the Naughton family, been here since Russian days. They're making a crusade to get the outside of the city withdrawn from the local government because there are those of us who live in the country and pay a steep tax bill, receive absolutely nothing for our taxes. There's no way that they can point to any service we receive as justification for the big tax load we pay.

I didn't intend to get sidetracked off on this, but I was just introducing myself.

My wife and I, we came to Kodiak in June 16 1949. We came here on a sailing ship, the "Denali", owned by the Alaska Steamship Company. And when we went aboard in Seattle, we had a son 18 months old. That's the only we had. And we boarded the ship and we rode to Kodiak in First Class. We had a top notch dining hall and kitchen. We were served three meals a day on the ship and all the waitresses had coats and tails. And excellent food. In the morning, about 10 o'clock we had mug-up time. All kinds of pastries and the same thing in the afternoon about three. And we had lectures on the way up orienting us about what Alaska was all about.

And that time of year we stopped along the way in many places at the fishing villages delivering supplies as we made our way up the inside passage and then over to Kodiak. They not only hauled passengers. But they also hauled freight. Kodiak, in those days, only got a ship once every three weeks. And that was one ship.

Of course we were coming right at the end of World War Two and there had been 40,000 soldiers and marines stationed in this area. It was highly fortified on Woody Island, out at Ft. Abercrombie, all the islands around here and then clear out towards Chiniak. Communications went as far, as I knew about, to Kizhuyak Bay, on the west side and clear down to Alitak, south. That is there were bunkhouses and installations. And there were also a couple of Quonset huts in Saltery Cove, that soldiers stayed in that were stationed there. And also, going over the mountains there was a radio station just before you went over the top, there was a cook house and a place for a few soldiers to stay. So Kodiak was fortified.

As I was saying, we got here just at the end of the war. In fact, one day I went to the Navy base and there were only 19 soldiers left. And I talked to the Commanding Officer there about getting Ft. Abercrombie to hold a young people's Christian summer camp in. And he said, "I have 2 boys that I'd like to see

in some kind of camp. I'll just turn the key over to you." And out at Abercrombie there was a base completely intact, and it just had a steel gate across the road and he gave me the key. And we had a lot of servicemen in our young people's group here in the Community Baptist Church. So we just invited them to come and didn't charge anything. Everybody picked their own house there were so many Quonset huts and places to live. Everything was beautiful in the trees. Nice walkways, well kept roads, their own power plant system, the old water system and they had underground bunkers as a command post. And had two big guns out there. They kept the brass shining on them like they were ready to shoot. And so they just turned the whole works over to us. And we had a great camp out there. And the lake out there that they got their water out of, at that point in time, had a vine that grew on it that spread out over on the water. It had beautiful pink flowers on it. I even have some pictures of it way back in those days. Now whether they still have those vines with that flower on it out there in the summertime, I don't know. I haven't been out at Abercrombie in the summertime for many years. But, I am just giving you some of the conditions here when I came here.

In 1949 there was no pavement, there was no gravel. There may have been half a dozen trucks in Kodiak. I only know of two and the Kodiak Baptist Mission owned those. That's where we were when we came to be parents in a children's home. We had 14 children for 3 years as Mom and Dad. And at the mission we had 2 trucks and we would get stuck right down on Main street in front of the businesses with those trucks. It pretty well remained that way for a few years and then Mr. Schurpe(?) got a contract with the city to pave Main street and he paved it with cement, and I mean he did a good job. Sidewalks were cement and the street was cement and steel. And that's the way it was until the earthquake and tidal wave. The earthquake and tidal wave didn't phase that road, but it pretty much washed out the rest of the

town. That was March 24, 1964. So after the tidal wave we didn't have much of a town as you see it today. And so we instigated an urban renewal project. With such a project the whole town was changed. Urban renewal came in and those of us who had business properties down there sold our property to urban renewal. So when they came in we had an opportunity to buy it back, it was many times higher than what we got for it, because they came in with the building regulations. You had to have so much space for parking, so much space for the street, so much space for the water line. In other words with that came a lot of ordinances, building codes and so many of us were notable to buy the property back. Some property, a lot of it, stayed idle until developers and promoters came in and borrowed money from the government loans and manipulation and they reestablished businesses down there where you see a lot of them today. Where you see businesses today used to be peoples homes. Not only did the tidal wave destroy a lot of the property but many of the homes weren't even touched. But they were aced out of it by the urban renewal project. I happened to live around here long enough that I've seen it. I know it happened and many of my friends who were dead a long time ago were the victims of what happened during the urban renewal project and the earthquake and tidal wave.

So after the earthquake and tidal wave in 1964 Kodiak really began to grow, pick up steam and move ahead. All the years that I have lived in Kodiak there have been periods of ups and downs. And when we'd have a down time people would feel pessimistic and wonder "Is Kodiak going to fold up? Is my home going to be worth anything? Or should I bail out?" and all of that. But Kodiak has made constant progress all the years I've been here. It's gone forward, for instance: There's a home today that sold for over \$125,000 and I gave \$27,000 for the lot and the house that was on it and rented it for a couple of years. I bought another piece of property here, right off of Mission Road, a sailor boy

lived in it. I bought it for \$500. He gave me the money and said, "Let me live in it till I'm gone and I'll give it to you." And he did. I sold it for \$15,000. That's the way property values went up here in Kodiak. Today a lot of pieces of property that you could have bought... Well, right in front of the high school I own a home there that sits on two lots and they're United States patents. I bought both lots for \$500 apiece. Just gives you an idea of property values. Today in Kodiak the same piece of property would sell for \$45-55,000. And that's the way things have gone forward in Kodiak, whether you're talking about homes or streets or property value of any kind.

But when I came to Kodiak two people run the entire city government. Two bodies, one was a bookkeeper the other sent out water bills and that kind of thing. We had one policeman. We had one person that took care of all your streets. All the maintenance, all the roads, the tractors, the whole works. You see what we've moved to today, although we are very modern and we have lot more conveniences, which is all very nice. But it costs us a lot of money. For instance: today outside the city limits I pay a little over \$95 a month for just water, sewage and garbage. When I came to Kodiak you could have rented a very nice place for \$95 a month. All the water systems then belonged to about half a dozen different systems. We didn't have a water system like we have today. In fact, we had a water system, the Erskine system, and a Sears system, and the city had 2 make-shift systems. They were continually trying to catch service water up on the back of Pillar and bring it down, but when it got dry in the summer time it dried up. Whenever you started digging trying to put in a street or anything you would always run into a bunch of pipes from everybody's water system you were running into. Most all the water came off the hilly side of Pillar, these little streams you see run when we get a big rain. So that is the kind of water systems we had. We did not have too good a sewer system, they were all septic tanks. Sears out here, he finally

put in a system for his houses. It was just a wooden culvert made of 2" x 10". It took four of them to make a box. He ran it from Mission Road down to the beach, his sewer system ran out there.

Around town here, down in the red light district down below Kraft's (there was a big red light district during the war) there were about 2 blocks, 9 houses there. And some of the friends of the gals would donate the materials and they put in a sewer system that bubbled out in the bay. But most of the sewage was open.

I moved to the Baranof Museum, it was my home, I was the last one to live there before it became a museum. I lived there nine years and it was known as Erskine House. We had a good sewer system from the house down to the bay. Erskine had the best water system in town. In the summer time they were always tapping into my water system. As far as garbage, I took care of it myself. I lived there in that Erskine House for 9 years. I paid \$150 rent for the house, and I rented out rooms. We had as many as 27 roomers when we were full. What I had for heat, I had 2 space heaters, 1 upstairs and 1 downstairs. I had an open dorm with beds in it and I had 3 private rooms. I rented my rooms for \$10 a week. They got fresh linens on Saturday in their rooms. I rented beds \$2 a night for beds, clean beds. It was a place where many of the people around the island came in and stayed in my place. They would go to the hotel, they would charge \$5 a night. Well, if the hotel thought they was going to cause some problems they detoured down to my place. A lot of my clientele was from the villages around the island and they hit alcohol pretty hard. They would come down and I would provide them a place to sleep. I knew a lot of people around the island and today a lot of them have gray hair like me, who used to stay in our rooming house.

So after the earthquake and tidal wave we moved out of the Erskine House. It belonged to Mr. Atcheson. He sold it to the

Parks Service for the museum. But I must say some of my most enjoyable days was in the old Erskine House. By then we had 2 children. One was born while we stayed there. It made an ideal place as a home for my wife and children because it's 100 feet long. As they got old enough to ride a bicycle they enjoyed riding one end to the other, as they would go through the doors of the various rooms. Then we had a big dining area and we entertained a lot at many lovely gatherings of friends and dinners there. My wife taught music there in the old Baranov mansion. She taught music all the years we were in Kodiak, we both retired together. Then she had her music studio in the old Baranov mansion. I moved my shoe shop there. I had got into the shoe business in the early 50's. I bought out the only shoe shop in Kodiak. I had moved it twice before I moved it there. Originally my shoe shop was in the old Army latrine, built by the military to accommodate the servicemen when they were in town. It stood where the KANA stands today. In 1956 they built the new Post Office where the KANA is. The new building you see there where the KANA is today, I believe cost \$150,000 to build. Probably now it costs 3/4 of a million dollars to replace it. But, anyway, I moved from the old army latrine, I moved over to the Baranov museum. Before I moved into the army latrine down town on Main Street. It was on Torgerson's property right on Main Street and my rent was \$25 a month. All rents were cheap back then, so a little business could survive, if you went into business. So, that kind of gives you a picture of how things looked before the tidal wave. We had a long winding crooked street with small businesses on it. All were paid off, for none were in debt to the government, because you couldn't borrow money on a little business like that, anyway.

I remember serving on the fire department. It was a volunteer fire department. A lot of times I would be at Tommy Galagher's eating a hamburger and when the whistle blew he would throw his apron down and away we would go. Grab the fire truck

and head for the fire. We had a very good record in Kodiak. We had very little property was ever lost because we were always on top of it. I remember years ago when I served on the city council we spent \$15,000 for a brand new fire truck. It had a 500 gallon tank on it, 4-wheel drive, high pressure pump and hose. The reason we bought that piece of equipment, we didn't have fire hydrants where we were. In fact, we had very few fire hydrants. We could get to the fire in a hurry with our high pressure hose and pump. We put out most fires. Our first fire was the city reservoir, I remember that. We got a lot of criticism for spending all the money in the city treasury for a fire truck. But, today \$15,000 would be postage stamp money compared to the government we have today. But, anyway, before the earthquake and tidal wave that's all we had in the way of fire equipment. A lot of times in the wintertime we would run out of water. We'd head for the bay and get our water for putting out fires. These were just the early days of Kodiak growing up.

Since 1964 we had done a lot of paving and built a lot of new buildings. We've made what you would call steady progression, the standards of modernization.

Now I will take you a different direction. The seine web was not like it is today. Today you can bring your seine set net and stack it on a pallet board and go back a year later and it will be just as good as it was when you put it there. But, if you don't dry the old fashioned webb out and dry the corks and all of that, the next year, when you get ready to use it, it will be rotten. So we used to go to our fish sites at least a month earlier than we do today. And the canneries would open a month earlier because everybody would have to come and get their gear and everything ready. In fact all of our boats were wooden boats, built out of planking because there were no plywood boats. So the plank boats have to be caulked. And they have to be

tarred, they have to be renailed some of them if they have been used a season or two. If you're fishing in Shelikof Straits where there's really rough weather, your boats would be continually springing and you'd have to keep working on them all the time. In the later years we had all of our boats built by shipwrights in Larsen Bay. Jake Latonnen built most of our boats and they were of plywood. I remember the first boat he built for me was built out of Sitka spruce. It cost \$500 complete boat built and painted. Last year we had a boat built of aluminum the same length, little bit wider and it was \$7500. There's a lot of difference in the cost of what boats are today and what they used to cost. But, never the less, we have gone to aluminum boats because they don't leak and we treat them much rougher than we ever treated any boat. But, in Shelikof Straits we do spring a lot of our boats and we have an aluminum welder right on the grounds that we weld our boats when we cracked them or spring them. Whatever needs to be done we can weld them right there. So fishing has changed considerably. Used to when I came to Kodiak there was only one cannery in town. It was where the ship is setting down here today. That belonged to the All Alaskan. That's where the cannery set. It was called Halperdi's Cannery. It opened it's doors usually about the first of April or along towards May. And the first thing they did was can what they call pioneer clams. They brought them in from Swikshak, over on the other side of the Shelikof Straits. Mr. McConogey he contracted with a boat as tender "Yarsh", it was one of those larger boats. I would say the "Yarsh" was about a 58 footer. The "Yarsh" would haul clams from Swikshak. He paid five dollars a box delivered to the dock. They would go over early and set up a little shack over there for the clam diggers to live in, over on Swikshak. Then they would bring the clams into Kodiak and the workers in those days were all local worker, native women. Native women mostly worked in the clam cannery there. The men would work on the docks and unload the boats and so forth, and they were called

the pioneer clam. Just before Halperdi's cannery went out of business and they were there during the earthquake and tidal wave in 1964. We had a man by the name of McCalister, and he got to fishing crab. And he limped. Whenever we were out fishing salmon he was out fishing crab. We thought that he must have rocks in his head. He built a little crab cannery down on the docks. It was about 20 feet wide and 30 feet long. He would go out every day and come back with a load of king crab. So finally we had Mr. Wakefield come into the country over by the straits near Afognak. They set up a real nice cannery there and they started to mess around canning king crab. It began to catch on here. All at once just about everything that could float was out chasing king crab. That was when they were just starting. The fishing fleet would go out and if you could visualize seeing a drag on the bottom with just a big roll of crab just rolling and rolling and the legs breaking off, the shells and everything else not only what they took but what they destroyed. It soon wiped out all the bays around here. Then there was no more king crab. Then the bigger boats, they began to get into the king crab fishing. Limit seiners and bigger. The old timers, like myself, right away we wanted to limit the pots to 30. We felt that if we kept it at a 30 pot limit, it would provide a good living and we would continue to have king crab to fish. We would maintain a ministry. But, big money, big boats, and outside political powers overcame us and they wanted unlimited number of pots. Many of them had 200 or 300 or 400, you name it, until they wiped them out and there was nothing left now for anybody. In all that time we had a biologist going down and studying the king crab. Mr. Dorman Smith and I, one time in May, we decided to take 3 days off and go for a little trip. We went over to Kazhuyak with our rifles and we was hunting bear, and just out enjoying ourselves. We could stop our skiff over the rocks when the tide was going out and load up the skiff just by flipping king crab off the rocks underneath the shallow water. We did that more

than once. In towards Larsen Bay there were great big balls of king crab coming in the bay spawning. But, because of man's greed, he wiped them out.

I was here when they put shrimp peelers in the canneries. When a boat could go in one day and come back with 80 to 100,000 pounds of shrimp. But there was no limit, no restrictions and they wiped them out. He [the fisherman] took the food right off his own table. That's the way the crab and shrimp industry went, and as you know them today. When they open the crab season out here it is very few days that they are allowed to fish at all. Back when we first started catching king crab, I remember the negotiated price one time, it was .09 a pound. That would make history to think what they are today. There was a little such thing as catching cod fish. Our pollock, not that they were not here, but there was no market and there was no one prepared to process it. So if you are living in Kodiak today you are witnessing a lot of changes taking place every day. As you see the steam belching from the canneries down there you know that they are at work. I was told this very day that at Cook Inlet they have 2 shifts going down there and I don't know how many hundreds of people are working in the canneries right now. But, there is a great number of them and most of them are Mexicans because the Philipinos have moved out of the canneries and gone to other jobs in town. I've seen the fisheries go from a strictly salmon fishery and a few pioneer clams to what it is today. For many of the years that I have fished I can't remember what year we started buying fish by the pound, but it seems to me like it was in the early 70's that we went from buying by the fish and buying them now, by the pound. But, we used to sell our entire fish, red salmon maybe .25, maybe .10 for dog and .08 or .09 for pink. Now I am talking about [whole] salmon and not pounds. But, it's a different story today. All of our fish are sold by the pound. Now I am coming up just about the 45th year of fishing, coming from way back as I said before. Small open

boats, skiffs, up to our modern fishery today. It has been tremendous changes now our fish are all bought in town, but we used to have a strong fisherman's union here. That would cover just about all fishermen. We would always negotiate with the canneries. But I have a strong feeling at this point in time, that our fisheries are controlled by the Japanese. I saw this all happening. It happened by a very slow degree because there had been a lot of resentment if it happened quick because World War II hadn't been over too long. And for many years after World War II there was a lot of resentment against the Japanese. So they came in slowly. They came in first with the boats to buy the product. And they began to invest in the canneries, bought out a great number of the canneries. Today they pretty well control what we get for fish because they are the ones who buy most of it and that's where our market is. They are strong enough and powerful enough that they get together and establish a market pretty well sets what we're going to get for fish. I am making two trips every year now, to Seattle to meet with a fish buyer because I have an interest in a cannery. It's the Japanese that buy our fish. They're the one we will meet with and negotiate with them. I am very cautious of their negotiating methods. But, there is nothing they can do about it because they are the only market we have. Because of their poor marketing of the pinks there are a lot of people who are concerned enough about it that at this very point in time there is different products coming off of the market that are being made out of pink salmon. At the senior citizens last Thursday night I ate one of those products and it was very good. It was a ham made from pink salmon. There are smoked salmon hams, little bitty packages of pound or pound and a half. And you buy them and you can slice it. It looks just like ham. You wouldn't ever know it was pink salmon. But for things like that being developed, hopefully will change our marketing situation.

Well I first had a seiner. And the way I got that seiner I

was in partnership Mr. Knute Salberg who established a homestead on Mill Bay out here. Him and his brother each established a 160 acre homestead. And Knute had chickens. He sold chicken eggs on base and in Kodiak. He had a contract with the Navy to haul all their scraps from their mess halls and they had 3 mess halls. There was a lot of scraps. So all you had to do was make one trip a day and you would get enough garbage scraps to feed 5 or 600 chickens. Well, anyway, Knute, he was going to gather the eggs, and wash the eggs, and case them, take care of the chickens and I'd haul the garbage. Well, came summertime and the pushki around here grows 6 feet tall and other grass and weeds and bushes. And the chickens would hide out and steal a nest out. Knute would find their eggs and put them in a big bucket and our water on them and he would never check the eggs to see if they were good or not. So I had a lot of problems selling eggs that chickens in them. I was selling them to a lot of women that worked on the Navy base. They had their own quarters there. Knute and I were in the chicken business for a while together. So finally Knute, he homesteaded 160 acres he finally settled and he got 5 acres. Which was later sold to the Norton family and they turned it into a trailer court which has been sold a couple of times since. But that was at Mill Bay. And Knute built a beautiful home there. He built it out of logs. He had an 80 foot tractor that he used to pull the logs up to build his house. And he lived there for many years. When he died he left a will. He and I, while he was living, tried to establish an old folks home and we couldn't get any interest. And finally when Knute died he left about \$13,000 and he left it to an administrator, a friend of his who was...can't think of his name right now...Karl something. Anyway, Karl and I tried to get somebody interested in starting an old folks home. We contacted the Lutherans and the baptists and a few others and we couldn't get anybody interested, because, we didn't have enough money to do anything. So Karl, he died, Karl Bumstead was his name. He died and so he

left that money in the estate. The estate was turned over to Roy Matsen, the attorney, hoping that some day he would get somebody interested in building an old folks home here, the Senior Citizens Place. Well, after the earthquake and tidal wave, the state came into oil money that kind of took care of itself, because the state built them all over the territory and the money that we had was turned over to the Senior citizens center. Even though the Senior Citizens Center here today is a dream of a lot of old timers that have passed on. They were always hoping that we would have a Senior center.

I got a ranch in Larsen Bay. I traded it for my home in California. I got involved in the ranching, it's going on 40 years now. We had a very effective rancher's association on Kodiak Island. One time we had in excess of 5800 cattle, but all of our ranchers are dead now, except just 4 of us. When the Natives got their land they wanted all the cattle off. They will not release the land because any time they make any kind of an income off of any of their property they have to pay taxes. So it was a blow to the cattle industry. My ranch went completely to the Ouzinkie Native Corporation. So a lot of ranches were destroyed with those land selections. Nothing moved in to replace it. So I say it was not good. Because the Natives have not used a lot of the land and they killed the ranches on it. So I did not, in 1971, when the plans came down, I did not protest. The Ouzinkie Native Corporation selecting my ranch. Because they had promised to give me my homestead of 160 acres. But, as time rocked along, it was many years before they ever got titled. The old timers that I was dealing with died off. Instead of them wanting to give me my homestead they only wanted to give me 5 acres or nothing. So I went to court. I fought them for five years. Cost me about \$60,000. Finally events changed, over the process of time, they saw they were getting themselves into an unfavorable position. They wanted to negotiate with me. We negotiated for 120 acres, that's what I came up with in Anton

Larsen Bay, as my homestead. That's what I own there today. I am improving it. I plan to continue in improving it as long as I live. I don't ever intend to have anymore cattle. I have quite a few horses. It's 15 miles from Kodiak. You go out to the housing area at the base, Nemetz Park. Make a right hand turn, go right over the mountain by the ski chalet and right on down to the beach and that is my ranch for 10 miles each way for over 30 years. And that is where my homestead is. I will continue to do that although there is a move right now to get the out lying district out of the Kodiak Borough because of the high rate of taxes and we don't receive any benefits or not one benefit you can point to, that none of us receive outside of Kodiak. I paid \$15,000, I mean \$1500 in taxes a year on 120 acres, I don't see one thing I'm getting for my taxes as well as all the other people out the road and all. But anyway, that's the way it is and I plan to improve it. I opened up to businesses there. One is a boat storage, and opening very shortly is a little restaurant for people going out that way to have a cup of coffee or piece of pie, some cookies, like that. And Debbie Olsen that has lived out there for the past 15 years, she is going to operate it. Her and I are going in partners together.

But, in 1974 we built a slaughterhouse in Bells Flats. Us ranchers got together, incorporated and that was after the tidal wave. We lost all of our slaughter facilities, they all got washed out off of the ranches. I mean they went out to sea and circled around and busted up. We didn't have anyplace to slaughter, so temporarily we got one of the old buildings there in Bells Flats warehouse to set up there to slaughter in. Went to Juneau and got a loan for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to build the present slaughter facility, as you see it today. The same facility today, you couldn't build it for \$750,000. In the 20 years, next year will be 20 years that it has been built, we have never paid out 1 hour of labor. We have always done the slaughtering ourselves. A cooperative deal, we

have always helped one another. I have been president for the co-op for all of these years, myself. We have our monthly meetings to discuss our finances and our business and our future plans. And so, we have our estate above board. Our loan is almost paid out, we almost solvent. We are in the black and have been for the past years and we don't have any paid employees. We have pretty nice little business going out there now. Not the Co-op, but members of the co-op. Mr. Dortman, he is smoking hams and fish and pigs and all kinds of stuff that they are doing out there. I was out there today in the co-op showing my friend around. At the present time I have all my cattle on the Burton ranch. Mr. Burton has a few years ago decided to phase out his cattle and go into buffalo. The primary reason for that is because of bear predation. I think it was wise and smart move because that has always been the number 1 problem here is bear predation. And unless you have been in the cattle business you don't know how severe bear predation can be. The time of the year that cows are having their young is the time of year that bears come out of hibernation. They have absorbed a lot of their fat while in hibernation and they are just like an athlete, when they come out they get their digestive system working. They walk around and eat a few roots and...

Here the narrative ends due to a lack of tape. This man was an excellent choice for my interview. Not only is a good and friend and counselor, he is quite colorful and plentiful in his anecdotes and stories from "the good old days." I think it would behove the College to keep track and encourage his writing of his memoirs here in Kodiak. It is a long and colorful history, and quite interesting, even to the casual observer. I do thank Mr. Fields for his time and effort and sacrifice in making my portion of the Oral History Project possible.