

H97-175-02  
Harry Hughes

Harry Hughes introduced himself as a member of the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo no. 4 and a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers of Dawson City, Yukon. The Pioneers pledge to preserve and perpetuate the true history of Alaska for the benefit of future generations. In May of 1960 the Pioneers purchased a tape recorder and appointed a committee to take tape recordings of pioneer friends and family. They took recordings of their lives in early day Alaska. In the course of this program they have come up with the idea of a permanent museum, park and monument located in the Fairbanks area. Two years before Audrey and Ted Loftus proposed a park and monument project and drew up some sketches and the TYHS was formed for the purpose of proceeding with this project. They haven't had a great deal of publicity for this project because they have worked with the members of the historical society and some members of the university. He was appointed last year to proceed to get all the legal data and pertinent information together to proceed with the acquisition of a piece of land. He has spent many hours on the project. They have made an application for a piece of land located in the Fairbanks area. They are proceeding with the idea of establishing a permanent piece of land for a place for a museum and an auditorium. It will be a place to store information on the history of the railroad, the river, wildlife, and vegetation of Alaska. They would like to see all interested parties bend their effort to help them accomplish this. This could be the first state monument established in the new state of Alaska. He met with officials of the city and it was evident they did not know what his group was trying to do. They were not getting cooperation and support. He would like people to attend historical society meetings and any other group that is interested in preserving the history of Alaska. He said there were 220,000 people living in the state of Alaska and it is impossible to attempt to do so much so fast. He made comments about newcomers who must learn the ways of Alaska.