

H97-175-08
Frank Mussano
September ? 29, 1960
Fairbanks, Alaska
Harrie Hughes, interviewer
5" reel

Parts of the recording are difficult to understand

Frank is from Italy and a member of the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo 4. He is retired from mining and he worked for the city of Fairbanks. He came to Alaska in 1901-02. He came over the Chilkoot Pass. He talked about mining in the Dawson area. They staked the ground and went to register it. When they came back their holes were filled with water. They sunk three holes total and all of them filled with water. They came into town and worked for wages.

After a year or so in Dawson they moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. They went up on Cleary in 1903. They were working the ground for a percentage of the profits. They could work just in the summertime. He also worked on Goldstream Creek. They sunk one hole for 160 feet and just found ice all the way down. They were able to take out 25,000 dollars out of one site. Some of the people that he mined with were Jim ?, Martin Perelli, and Samuel Carrero. The FE Company eventually bought him out.

The interviewer asked how he lived when he was prospecting. Frank said they built a cabin to live in. He was working with Labama. The interviewer asked about coming to town for grub. Frank said he would travel into town and it didn't take too long.

The interviewer asked him if he walked to his sites. Frank said he walked and he didn't have horses or dogs. He would walk back into town.

At one point he was sick and had to go outside for treatment. The interviewer and Frank talked about one of the city foreman.

Frank and the interviewer discuss McGuire who worked for the Alaska Railroad.

The interviewer asked when Baroni came to Alaska. Frank said he worked for him and he came into Alaska about 1905.

The interviewer asked if he had any brothers and sisters. Frank said he had six brothers but none of them are living now. He made a trip home to Italy in 1908.

The interviewer asked about getting supplies when he was out at the mines. Frank said Cargill would come around with supplies. The railroad went out to the Chatanika area at that time, too.

The interviewer asked him what he used in the winter to thaw the ground. Frank said they used a boiler to drive points. The interviewer asked him if he knew Max Realy in Fox.

Frank said he knew him very well. He was the first storekeeper in Fox.