

H97-175-25

Arnie Lee

Fairbanks, Alaska

Harrie Hughes, interviewer

Arnie plays several songs on his accordion.

Arnie Lee, 52, talks about coming to Fairbanks, Alaska from San Francisco. He has a sister who was living in Fairbanks at the time. For a few years he mined on Fairbanks Creek. He was offered a job at the Nordale Hotel. He stayed with that job ever since then. In 1934 he traveled back to Norway and was married to Margaret Sonba. They were married for six months when his wife finally came to Alaska. They have three children. Their oldest daughter lives in Virginia. Ingrid and Norman are seventeen years old. When he was first married they lived in a little cabin on Fourth and Wickersham. They lived there for about a year. Then they moved to Sixth Street. They were living there during the bad flood of 1937. They had three feet of water in the basement of the hotel. They had to move everything from the basement up to the upper floors of the hotel. Harrie talked about youngsters in a boat playing the accordion all night long. Arnie talked about using a piece of board to float down to the hotel. There were some places that were very deep. Harrie asked about people that came to the hotel. Arnie said there were a couple of movie stars and well-known personalities that came to the hotel. Harry asked about some of the miners that came into town. Arnie said they were still around: Gus Uilla, Sid Carson and Harry Carson. Harrie asked about the Miscovich's. Arnie said they came in every spring. Arnie talked about Lou Larson, Bill Arthur and the pilot, Harold ^{Gilman} Brown (?). Harrie and Arnie talked about the zeppelin that came to Alaska in 1929. In 1936 he won a car at a dance in 1936. Einar Thompson, who was the chief of police, told him that he won a car. Harrie asked him about the boat he traveled on when he came to Alaska. Arnie said he came up on the Northwestern and it cost thirty-one dollars. He traveled in steerage. There were a lot of Chinese men on the boat who were traveling to the canneries.