

Call number: 97-176-02

Name and place: Harrie Hughes introduces his recording

Date: April 18, 1960

Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

Date of summary's creation: 03/13/2014

Series: Pioneer Tapes

Harrie Hughes tells that Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 4 has purchased a Steelman tape recorder and have given it to Harry so that he can do tape recordings and also teach some of the other members how to use it. They will start making interviews with old pioneers that can be transcribed into stories of Alaska. It is also to get names and places. Pioneers have been passing away fast and they want to try to get as many old-timers, who are in their 80s now, to tell about the things that happened 50-60 years ago and then gradually work to their current old-timers.

1:22 Harrie says it's April 20th, 1960 and last night Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 4 met and the pioneer committee for historical monuments and parks for Fairbanks area was appointed. They were to meet and form a request and start making plans for a permanent monument in the Fairbanks area. It is to be of considerable size so that it can be added to. First they have to make a request for the land as close as possible to Fairbanks.

The City could give the land to them, or release it back to the State, who could then dedicate it as a State Monument. The government has some land in the area too and that could be requested directly from the U.S. Government land office, since it's a government reserve. Then, after they have acquired the land in the name of the Pioneers, either as an incorporated organization or at state level, it would become a permanent state monument and eventually go into the National Monument system.

3:03 Then they should plan the installation and construction of the buildings of the historical monument and invite other organizations that are pledged to help preserve the history of Alaska. Harrie says that there are some people who might want to help them to get the land as soon as possible.

Members of the committee were: Frank Young, Ted Loftus, Ivar Skarland, Collin McDonald, Louis A. Johnson, and [Break in the recording.]. Harrie says that Eugene Rogi was the last member. [Break in the recording.]

4:20 Paul Greimann introduces himself and tells that he's the president of the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo no. 4. He's in Golden Days Committee since their vice president, Forbes Baker, is going to be absent during the time. Paul has the consent of Harrie Hughes who will act as a chairman of the Golden Days Committee. Douglas Colp, Adolph Stock, Stan Lacinsky [sp?], Leo Scholtfeld, and Roy Bunnett [sp?] are the committee. They can bring in more people to help them.

They have Paul Grayson as the head of gold panning, which has always been popular, and he has been instructed to get as many fellows to help with panning as possible, because its' one of their big sources of entertainment during the Golden Days. [Break in the recording.]

5:27 Adolph Stock from 1959 Golden Days Committee says that he knows Harrie is going to be the chairman of the Golden Days committee, taking a full charge of it as much as he can, and wonders what information he can hand Harrie. [Harrie says something unclear.] Adolph says that they all just need to pitch in. They are gathering supplies such as mustaches, hats and canes. They are also trying to get tickets printed for the gold nugget [unclear] if they get a big nugget, and if not, they will have a poke of gold [?]. It's up to all of the boys in the committee that are able-bodied to sell tickets to the gold nugget.

They have a parade at the very beginning of the Golden Days celebration, on July 22nd. They need to get some men together to make a float that is going into the parade. Harrie asks if they have any other organizations that work with them, but Adolph says that the particular project of the float is strictly for the Pioneers.

7:59 Harrie asks what organizations take part in the Golden Days in general. Adolph tells that all organizations can be involved in the Golden Days parade. [Harrie asks something unclear and Adolph answers yes.] Lions [Club] put up a float, as well as the Elks, the Eagles, and different organizations in town. The Pioneers' float needs to be the outstanding one.

Harrie says that they will reproduce gold mining activities for entertainment, make a float and have some costumes. Adolph tells that the Pioneers came through the Chilkoot Pass, and that last year they had a float that was composed of a boat that had the old-timers in it. It had a sign saying "Fairbanks or bust." [Break in the recording.]

9:46 Harrie asks Eva [probably Eva McGovan] to talk to the recorder. Eva tells that she thinks "this" [the recording project] is a marvelous idea. She understands that Harrie wants to hear the views of different pioneers, and tells that she is very delighted. Harrie says he's going to need lots of help. He says he needs the help of pioneer women too, and Eva says that she thinks that the pioneer women will do as Harrie says. As a pioneer woman of the Pioneers of Alaska Auxiliary, she [unclear]. They are wonderful enough to do anything.

[End of the recording.]