

Call number: 97-176-05

Name and place: Harrie Hughes recording about Pioneer Park and Monument

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Series: Pioneer Tapes

Harrie Hughes introduces the recording. [Unclear segment.]

Harrie Hughes says that the following is a transfer tape, a copy of the second Park and Monument report together with an interview with Walter. A. Griffin, known as Sticky Griffin. Walter took a part in youth organizations and helped organize the ball park which the city has practically destroyed and removed. All of the parks that have been established in Fairbanks have been removed or dissipated by the city.

They had Week's Field, which was an area that was given to the city for a ball park and amusement area. It was located where the Airport Road is now. It was formally made into an airport for bush pilots and the ball park was moved to Griffin Park. The city has taken it over and made it into residential and commercial area. The next park that was dedicated was the Anchor Park. That started by the library on Chena River and went down to where the City Dump [unclear] and the surplus area are. They put in an water treatment plant and the city has destroyed the Anchor Park where the pioneer women used to plant flowers.

3:19 The Pioneers of Alaska would like to establish something permanent. Harrie has met Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Rivers, Mr. Gruening, and several other members of the Congress over the years. In early 1920s Harrie also worked with Marion Zeinseck [sp?] who is now diseased, and Harrie also worked in [Unclear's] organization through John C. Stevenson. Mr. Magnuson might not remember Harrie. Mr. Svallenbeck [sp?] is mentioned. Harrie says that the Pioneers would like to have help in their park project.

Harrie says that he recently made a trip to Dawson Creek where he met people he had heard about, or whom he had met 40 years ago. Dawson has a gold mine of historic equipment “over there,” and they showed Harrie handmade maps from time when Dawson was a part of United States, and prior to that, a part of France. The maps were made on a drawing board and they were ordered by U.S. Government in 1883. It was called the Military Reconnaissance Survey.

5:02 We [the Pioneers of Alaska] are now a part of the Dawson organization and they would like to get a little help from the Congress. Harrie asks for a little help for Alaska that has less population than the suburbs of any one town. Harrie will continue with a tape recording with an interview of Walter A. Griffin. [Break in the recording.]

5:55 Harrie [?] says that he has called the city engineer’s office for information about lots and areas and measurements. Then he went to recorder’s office, but they didn’t have any information regarding the reserve. Then at tax office [?] Harrie gained some more information with which he went back to Bureau of Land Management where he got some more information. Then he went to the Bureau of Public Roads engineering department and made [unclear] map of the area. Then he turned all the documents over to Douglas [unclear] at his office, so he can take copies and compile the papers that are going to be sent to the Government.

Doug left for business and didn’t complete his portion of the work so Harrie picked up the papers and took them to Earl Pilgrim to complete and make three copies.

7:42 [Unclear talking.] Sticky Griffin introduced himself and says that he was born in 1885 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He came to Alaska in 1925. He came back in January 1935 and opened a candy store on Cushman Street. [Unclear talking.] He served in [Unclear, military] in 1917-1918 in Texas. He got home in 1919 and went to San Francisco. [Unclear talking.]

14:32 Harrie Hughes says that this is a sample of feelings of one Pioneer who visited Fairbanks, and that he hopes that Bob and his friends in Washington will gain some insight in the need for a museum that includes pioneers, wildlife and vegetation, items of historical importance and such. They don’t have a place for those kinds of items and the Interior needs the museum badly. Tourists come to Fairbanks, see a town that looks like the ones back home, and they don’t come

back. Fairbanks needs to do something to preserve some history. Fairbanks will be the hub of the world eventually. They have an airport that's being developed, climate conditions that compare to some lower states or are even better as their previous winter was more moderate. Harrie pleads again for the importance of preserving the history by the way of establishing a permanent park monument.

Harrie wishes Bob good luck with his recording.

[End of the recording.]