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Henry Roden is interviewed by an unidentified man; John Jones Brooks is interviewed by Harrie Hughes on February 12, 1960

Series: Pioneers tapes

Recording begins in middle of the conversation. This section of the recording sounds like it was recorded from a radio program.

Henry Roden talked about getting someone to bring him two law books. One of the books was on torts and the other book was about shorthand. He learned all about torts. John Dillon in Rampart helped him. With this preliminary reading he went to Fairbanks on Goldstream as a laborer. Between shifts he studied law. He got several books from Fairbanks lawyers. In the fall of 1906 he put in his application for admission into the bar. Judge Wickersham appointed a committee to examine him. Other people on the committee included A.R. Hierlich, Fernand Deconaraugh, and John Dillon. One day he was asked to appear in open court and took the oath of office that every lawyer was required to take. He has tried to follow the oath. After that he practiced law. Deconaraugh was interested in mining cases which were pending in the Fairbanks court and had asked Henry about law issues during his law examinations. Henry said he had studied mining law and had prospected and mined for a number of years. Deconaraugh asked him to be a partner and they worked together for three years. Judge Wickersham after leaving the bench asked Henry to work with him. Henry said he was very proud to work with him. They formed a partnership with A.R. Hierlich. He was to get one fourth of the money coming into the practice. Soon after the partnership was formed Wickersham was elected as a delegate to Congress. Wickersham had to spend practically all of his time in Washington. The partnership was maintained while he was in Washington for some time. A.R. Hierlich became dissatisfied with the arrangement. A new partnership was formed between Wickersham and Roden. It continued for some time. When discoveries were made in Iditarod Henry went down there to the new mining camp. He then became the attorney for the Yukon Gold Company. It was buying up the producing property in and about Iditarod. The company was a subsidiary of the Guggenheim interests. Judge Wickersham and the Guggenheims had fallen out for complicated reasons. Henry said it was politics. Henry and Wickersham agreed to dissolve their partnership. The unidentified person hoped to have more interviews with Henry.

The remainder of the tape is very poor sound quality and most of the conversation is difficult to understand.

10:21 Harrie Hughes asks John Jones Brooks to identify himself and talk about his background. Jack Brooks said he was born on December 24, 1886 in England. He attended school there. He started working full time when he was thirteen years old. Jack Brooks talked about going to British Columbia when he was almost twenty-one years old. He signed on with a ship in 1907 going to China. He described the trip, his work and the different ports of call. He then traveled through the Yukon Territory to Dawson in 1908. He worked in Dawson for the Yukon Gold Company and described gold mining in the Dawson area. He talked about traveling on foot from roadhouse to roadhouse on his way from Whitehorse to Dawson.