

H97-66-07
Peter Stager
Fairbanks, Alaska

Peter Stager was born in LUIS, Austria near Salzburg. He had worked in the coal mines in Germany and decided to come to the United States. He was working in deep mines in Germany that were very hot. He went to Hamburg and took a steamboat to Philadelphia in 1910. He didn't like his first job in a coal mine. A friend invited him to work on a farm with him near Lincoln, Nebraska. He didn't work there very long. He then went to work in California and later to Seattle. He worked on the dock. While he was there he met someone that worked in Juneau. He took a boat (the Bertha) to Juneau. He met Ed Robinson on the boat who convinced him to go to Fairbanks. He didn't find work in Juneau. He took the same boat to Valdez. He found the trail to Fairbanks. He stayed in roadhouses along the way. Some of the roadhouses he stopped at included: Takana, Gulkana, Copper Center, Sourdough, Paxson, Myers, Tonsina, Youst, Donnelly, Munson and Delta. He ended up leaving his sack along the way because it was so large. It took him twelve days to walk to Fairbanks. He said that the trail was well marked. He stayed in a roadhouse owned by Bill Estes. He went up to Ester to look for a job. He got a job with Bill Estes chopping wood until the Fourth of July. He walked to Fox. He was offered a job working on the night shift at a mine and then offered another job. He decided to work for Wagner. He cashed out all of his money from the banks in town. He went prospecting with a partner, John Bizac. Chris Bets had a store in Russian Mission. They bought their food and tools there. They traveled up the Innoko River. He came to the conclusion that his partner was not a good person. He left his partner and floated down the Yukon River to Russian Mission. He then traveled to Holy Cross and then went over to Iditarod. He traveled on Frank Larson's boat. He went out to Flat and bought a cabin on the Flat River. He ran into John Bizac in Flat. He went to Tom McMann's store and bought him some food. He went to Dave Stanberg to get a job for him, too. John was fired from the job after a few months. He traveled to New York to marry his girlfriend. His wife's name was Barbara. They traveled back to Alaska on the Jefferson in 1921. That traveled down on the Yukon River and then to Flat.

They sold their mining claim in Flat after their second child was born and traveled by dogsled to Nenana. It was forty below on the trip. They stayed at several roadhouses along the way including Shurmeyers, Ophir, Takotna and McGrath. Ditna's roadhouse was burned down at the time of his trip. They talked about travel before 1931. They made it to Nenana and then traveled to Fairbanks. He needed a doctor for his wife so they took the train to Anchorage. This was in 1925. He had mining claims in Fox. He worked with Eddie Warden for a while. He then went over to Dome Creek and worked on the ditch for the F.E. Company. He later worked for the Tanana Valley Railroad Company.