

H97-66-26 Pt. 3

Robert Jones

Fairbanks, Alaska

January 12, 1967

Robert Jones was 83 at the time of the interview. He was born in North Wales to Edward and Amelia Jones. He had three brothers: Edward, Thomas, and William Jones. His sister was Helen Jones. He attended school in Wales. He was seventeen when he left home. His brother had been in Dawson and came home for a visit. In February 1900 he came to Skagway. They had to walk for a while and then rode the stage to Dawson. They worked with a group of men. He enjoyed his life in Dawson. He worked ten hours a day every day. He stayed in Dawson until 1902. He returned to Dawson and worked again on Dominion Creek. He knew Tony and Alex Nordale and Ed and John Herron. He also knew Bob Bartlett's father, Ed Bartlett. Ed Bartlett was in the freighting business. He left Dawson for the stampede to Fairbanks. His brother went before him. He talks about the Blue Parka Man and Tom Hamlin. The Mounties took Tom Hamlin and showed him over the country line. He ran into Sam Hat and asked him about the Blue Parka Man. When he was traveling to Fairbanks he was carrying a lot of money. He ran into Tom Hamlin and he wanted to travel to Fairbanks with him. They stopped at the Fox roadhouse. Everyone was concerned about the Blue Parka Man. He made it to Cleary with all the money. He started working at Cleary and made good money there. The Blue Parka Man was finally caught on a steamer leaving Fairbanks. After Cleary he went Outside and returned through Dawson. He traveled from Dawson to Eagle and Circle by dog team. He only had three dogs. They were all good workers. He had one that was about 150 pounds. He talked about crossing the Eagle Divide. He met Dan Callahan's wife and daughter who were traveling to Eagle. He ran into Jim Lahtan on Goldstream. The miner's strike was going on in Fairbanks at the time. He went to the Ophir country. He traveled by boat to Holy Cross and onto the Innoku River. He prospected in the Ophir area including Sluice Creek. This was about 1909. He stayed there until 1913. He went back to Wales for three or four months. He came back to Dawson and prospected with a friend. On a trip to Dawson he ran into a friend that told him about Nolan Creek. He decided to go with him. He went on a steamboat to Beaver. He got a map to the Koyukuk area. He was traveling in September. He hunted spruce hens on his trip. He went to the Hammond River first. He worked there all winter. He bought in with Pingle. He sunk a fifteen foot hole and ran into gold. This was on Nolan Creek. He traveled to Wiseman to get supplies. There was an N.C. Company store there. Mr. Brown was the manager at the time. Sam Dubin had the store after N.C. Company pulled out. He flew out of Wiseman. The planes would land on the bar until the residents made a landing field. The supplies came up to Wiseman from Bettles on scows. The scows were pulled by horses. It was sixty miles from Bettles to Wiseman. He had a couple of experiences with bears. He found a bear in his cabin one time. Another time he had two bears outside of his cabin when he was baking. Wanamaker was living in Wiseman the same time he was. Chappell was also living there. Harry Leonard was living there, too.

Sam White joined Robert and Jim. Bob told a story about Sam White.