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Paul Lien at Tanana-Yukon Historical Society

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Harrie Hughes [?] introduces Paul who is going to talk at the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society meeting. Paul starts telling how in early days in Fairbanks, there used to be a candy store that was run by the Hering family, Aude [Audrey?] Hering and Shorty Hering. The candy store was on 4th Avenue. Paul was apprenticing [?] at the [Fairbanks Daily] News-Miner at the time, and on their off hours, they used to crank the ice cream machine and lick the dashers.

At those days, everybody had a nickname. Aude Hering was called Cushy Hering, Breadwen's boy was called Dutchy Bergman, and Donald Hering was called Shorty Hering. Paul was called just Paul and people didn't know what to do with it, so they invented a nick name Pie, for "pie type". When one works at a newspaper and "spills it on the floor," it's called pie type [unclear what this means]. That didn't work and Aude Hering came up with Ip. She called Paul "Ip" and Paul had a hammer and he threw it, missing of course. Paul resented the name and it stuck. It was his initials backwards, Paul Ivar, Ip. He was called that all through high school.

2:40 Paul says that the folks at the [unclear] should be proud of themselves. Years ago, in high school, John A. Clark let the 7th and 8th graders come in so that they were all in the room. Mr. Clark told them that it's up to them, the youngsters, to preserve the memories of the old pioneers of Alaska and Paul remembers being impressed about the speech, but nothing was ever done about it. John A. Clark was an attorney of law and a very dignified gentleman who used to speak in the high school schoolboard when Paul was on 6th or 7th grade.

If Paul had devoted his time to that work when he was in high school, they would have had much better history of Alaska. He later started to interview people like

Martin Knappe and had a series of stories of old-timers in the News-Miner. He didn't believe that he was much too late, and he is still trying to do the work whenever he can get ahold of a new story project. [Unclear talking by Paul and someone else.]

4:43 Paul thinks that they have to have a bigger society, but that it's bound to grow. Their work is going to be something for years to come.

[Unclear talking.] Talking about where Paul was born. It's supposed to be a true story and Paul can vouch for it. Paul was born on March 28th, 1912. His dad was a miner and they lived at Engineer Creek, right on the foothills near Fox. His mom says he was born at a gold mine, but it was just a bunch of rocks after NC-Company [Northern Commercial Company, Paul might mean Fairbanks Exploration Company] had gone through there. He was a premature baby. [Unclear] had his money with Gus Petersen [sp?] and the crew of 6 miners about a ½ mile away from the cabin in which Paul was born.

[Unclear] he arrived and his sister who was 5 years old ran down to Fox to get the midwife. They also called Dr. McKellum, who was a doctor in Fairbanks, to come out. They said that everything had to be cleared away for a new arrival, so the miners rearranged the cabin "that was probably a space about half of the size of this room." They all got excited, got everything out and then rearranged when they brought it all in. It was spring in Alaska. When they took everything out [unclear talking, laughter.]

7:30 Paul went to slide down on rock piles. Those days that was the biggest fun. Their pants got torn, but that didn't make much difference. They lived in Fox, but now he lives in Fairbanks at 6th and Cushman [unclear] Dr. Hall's house. Behind "this" was Jack Philips [sp?], who had an old pinto pony that Paul and his friends tried to hitch up and [unclear] some fish. Every spring they got female salmon [unclear]. They took it [the fish?] to town and sold it for 2 bits per pound. Pound was about 4 slices of salmon. [Unclear] used to cut their salmon in an old house which was next to Paul's house. The house was vacant and it had bunch of old tables there so they cut the fish there.

In summer months Paul used to make 4 or 5 dollars a day which is good money. He was always looking down the river to see Mike the Fisherman or anybody if they had got any fish.

Then for winter activity, Paul remembers R. K. [Archie?] Lavery. He remembers a humorous incident: R. K. used to have a dog called Colonel [?] and they used to haul water from the river. Nowadays they have water that's soft and ready for washing or anything, but those days water was "as hard as a rock." Water from the river was supposed to be soft so they brought in barrels, put them in sleds, and sold the water for two buckets for a quarter.

Paul remembers that they used to take the dog, but they didn't have enough time to get a dog team together. This dog [Colonel] loved to stay in. They dragged the dog down the river with the sled and then they'd fill the barrels. Everything was fine as long as they were going towards home, but when they got there, the dog took off.

10:02 They expanded their operation with Jimmy's horse named Nelly. They were able to put 3 barrels on the sled and did fine business. One day when they were taking the horse home, Nelly decided to go home, just like R. K.'s dog had done. Nelly went to Jimmy King's [?] barn and the sled was sitting in a Burnette's bench [? These segments are hard to hear.] [Unclear about the water.] That was during the days of enterprising for Paul. Of course, he says, he never had much sense in business anyway.

They used to make their own fun every day. They used to have a gravel-pit out along the Alaska Railroad. The kids made their own playgrounds. They swam for years in the gravel-pit. As soon as the ice was out of the lake, they started diving and Paul can recall swimming in a smaller place near the Bentley Slough which was across Chena. Those days Piledriver Slough came in at about 19-mile Richardson Highway and the river "here" in those days was [unclear].

11:41 There were two ways to get to Bentley's: One could walk across the old [unclear] 6 miles an hour, or one could do what Paul and Dick Morens [sp? Martins?] did: Once, when Paul was about 11 years old, they thought it would be a lot quicker to go through the grave yard. There was a lumber company where they used to swim at the Chena Slough and they'd go right [unclear] trail and never thought nothing of it. [Unclear talking. Swimming in their overalls?] They had

their fun and Paul remembers he felt sorry for Johnny Butrovich who had to help support his family by working on [unclear] cabbage patch, earning 2 bits an hour.

Johnny and Hodie [sp?] came home with straw hats on, walking by Paul's house, and he thought himself lucky because he could go swimming. Later on [unclear] became greatest [unclear] of all times. He never learned how to swim and he became one of the finest baseball players. Paul doesn't think that they had much for recreation those days, but they made their own recreation. Nowadays it seems to him that people create some things for youngsters, but Paul doesn't think they appreciate it. [Unclear talking.]

13:24 Paul says that that was back in 1936. [Unclear talking.] At that time Paul went to the University of Alaska in 1933. He had some money from his dad who was at Goldstream [?] and finally settled [unclear] with the FE-Company. Paul got a few dollars and he remembers Johnny McGuin [sp?] to be his attorney who said they'd try to get more money if they can. Paul agreed with him and went back in 1936. Prior to that, in 1934, a couple of writers came to town. They were Tony Ford and Alistair McBain [sp?]. They were looking for an uncle of Alistair's whom Paul doesn't recall, but who was [supposedly] at Tetlin [?] Lake area.

Pat Dorothy [sp?] went to find out what happened to the fellow. He had died the previous year. Paul got quite well acquainted with the two fellows and they were well [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] Paul started a serious correspondence. [Not sure what he is talking about.] When he went to school, [unclear] so he made a trip out of Alaska the next spring, after which he came back and up the Tanana [River].

15:00 He went back and forth with John Dimond. [Unclear talking, joking.] As an answer to unintelligible question, Paul says he likes to write. [More unclear talking.] Paul says he's sorry he hasn't had more time to write. When he is writing for the newspaper, he is under a lot of pressure and doesn't have time to fix the story, outline it, or analyze it. One just has to write what comes into one's head. [Unclear talking. Laughter.]

16:42 Paul says it's true [unclear, what]. He says he wants to recall some things that "have been mentioned here", but he wants to talk about juvenile delinquents. After October, there was Halloween which was just something for the kids to do. Paul says he participated in 1923-1926 [Unclear talking.], but he never saw a

Halloween morning that wasn't a gate on the fence [? Every Halloween morning everyone was missing a gate, but the night before pranksters had removed the gates as a practical joke]. Every gate hung from a telephone pole on any street. It was all over and teeter-tooters went through. They tried to let the chief of police [unclear] floor and [unclear]. That was the time when Bud Boy [unclear] and they tied him up and put him in. [Unclear talking.]

18:12 It was in 1926 when [Unclear, Tony?] was a freshman. He was a bit older than the rest of them because he had been [unclear]. He was in Paul's class and associated with Maxi Miller, Aude Hering and Charlie McGrath "and that group." [Unclear talking.]

[There was] $\frac{3}{4}$ of a gallon of somebody's whisky out there and all the high school kids were there. Paul wasn't there because he was too young. [Unclear.] They were all called to court. Paul recalls how Tom [Thomas A.] Marquam was defending the kids and Julian Hurley was prosecuting. Everything went fine. He remembers Maxi Miller, Charlie McGrath, Aude Hering and every kid from high school being there. The girls, too, were there. There was really nothing wrong, except that everybody [had drunk?] too much and it was noticeable. [Laughter.] They got a case at the old courthouse on 2nd Avenue and sentences were not guilty.

19:59 Tom Long was a son of a deputy marshal from Ruby and [unclear] Judge [Unclear.] Tom Long was asked how does he "play it" to which he replied that his name is Tom Long Jr., that he was drunk, and that he doesn't know nothing. [Laughter.] Laughter broke out in the courtroom and he [the Judge] couldn't bring it to order so he dismissed the case. The kids all got scared so nothing like that happened again, but that was juvenile delinquency. [Unclear talking.]

21:08 Paul says that he'd like to add that his own life hasn't been that exciting, except for during the war. He doesn't know why he was picked, but he had a [unclear] to service [unclear] control officer. He was living in Alaska at the time but [unclear, working for?] Pan American Airways. [Unclear] in travel business. He got to know various people like Lieutenant Middleson [?] who was in the Navy and in charge of travel control. Then he had a commission to come up [to Alaska?] in the Navy and he was sent to [unclear]. He trained there for 3-4 weeks and was on his way to go to Kodiak. He doesn't know why, but the day he came in, the

Navy had taken over the Pan American Airways. He got his transportation to Kodiak in that capacity. [Unclear.]

22:24 Paul didn't have any intention to stay in the States, but an admiral changed his orders and [unclear]. For 3-4 months, [unclear] everybody to go to Alaska by airline. At that time, Paul was stationed in Seattle. In 1942, "they practically strangled the airline, you couldn't get in or out of here. You couldn't go any place." [Unclear talking.] [I suspect that Paul means that during WWII there was ban on civilians traveling to Alaska].

The Navy had taken over with the objective of routing all the men and airplanes to the Aleutian Islands. It was only by luck that they flew planes to Fairbanks, Nome, Bethel, or any place else.

That's [unclear] Governor [Ernest] Gruening. Paul was in Seattle at the time when Governor Gruening, on 19th of January when Paul was traveling to Kodiak [unclear what is being said]. He was waiting to go to Kodiak when the word came out of dentist chair to [unclear] and Paul was sent to Juneau because Governor Gruening had [unclear] had gotten tired of getting transportation. [Unclear talking.] The idea was to move everybody out of there, but how? The Navy rules and regulations didn't call for it so they just refused.

Senator Gruening called to Admiral Fletcher [sp?] and was very firm in his demands, but the Captain [unclear] said that Admiral Fletcher wasn't available but in a conference. Gruening said to never mind Admiral Fletcher. Then he asked to be transferred to [unclear] in Washington D.C or, if he's not available, to Franklin D. Roosevelt. [Unclear talking.] Captain [unclear] on the phone said, "Sorry, sir, Admiral Fletcher will be with you in just a moment." They talked and then called to Paul out and asked if he wants to go to Juneau. [Unclear talking.] He was up there and [unclear] to work with Governor Gruening. He stayed at [Unclear probably the Baranof] Hotel and the Governor later offered him a room. [Unclear talking.]

25:30 The Navy was very fair and they had put an order out there that no aircraft would haul passengers out on [unclear]. They sent the order all around Alaska. Paul didn't get the order and [unclear] so for two or three weeks when the order came out in 1st of February, they had planes to take off from Kodiak and

Anchorage. They were empty. They had an order to load of 600 [unclear] and Paul's orders were that he can order an aircraft [unclear] on available bases, so he ordered them to Juneau. [Unclear.] In 5 or 6 weeks everybody was moved out of there.

The Navy knew that he was doing it and Governor Gruening knew, but he had daily airplane service in Juneau and he was happy. He had the Seattle P.I. [Seattle Post Intelligencer] on his desk every morning. Paul was breaking every law in the book, but nobody said anything.

One time a skipper came by and Paul thought that that was that. [Unclear talking.] And Coronel Kruss [sp? Krause?Krauss?] was [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] His bags were taken to hotel and he said [unclear]. [Unclear story.]

28:32 "Kodiak was stranded, Anchorage was stranded." Wayne did a fine job "down there," but Paul broke every rule in the book. It was all cleaned up. [Unclear] order to wait for him and meanwhile continue doing what Paul was doing. They thought Paul was "a little genius, moving all this stuff out". Later on, in the middle of March, Paul got a wire from Lieutenant J. G. Hall from Juneau. [Unclear.] Senator send us [unclar]. [Paul recalls the contents of the message:] "Senator zero, cargo zero, passengers zero." They proceeded to say [unclear] order no. so-and-so, date so-and-so, station Navy sent as follows: You will not carry passengers in cargo airplanes. Signed by [unclear] Alaska Sector, [unclear].

Then it was all over with. The passengers were all gone and they put Paul into a record to [unclear] him out. Everybody was happy. Two weeks later they carried them [passengers] anyway. [Laughter from the audience.]

A man asks how old Paul was when his mother passed away. He says he was 10 years old and his father passed away in 1930. [Unclear talking.]

A man says that now Paul is a staff writer [unclear]. He tells he is a staff writer for Jessen's Weekly [Newspaper] that is a weekly paper. He works mostly in advertising. [Unclear talking about old-timers.] Paul tried to write an article and the reason he did it was because he was having an easy day at the News-Miner and the editor gave him the idea about writing about old-timers. [Unclear talking.]

At 34:36 Paul tells that he's been trying to get a story about the Nordale Hotel from somebody in Fairbanks, but hasn't been able to get anybody [to give an interview.] Paul asks someone from the audience [Arnold Nordale] to tell him about it. [Unclear talking.] Arnold tells that they first came into America in 1884 [?] as immigrants, to Omaha, then to San Francisco and Seattle in 1888, where his older brother had a restaurant. The restaurant was destroyed in a fire. The brother died [unclear]. [Unclear talking.]

There was a "panic of 1893" and in the summer of 1894, they went to Juneau. There he went into business by himself until 1896. He went into Klondike prior to the real discovery of gold. He was up on Stewart River when the discovery was made in Klondike. [Unclear talking.] Arnold was born in Juneau [unclear].

He was in Dawson during the winter of 1896 and in 1899 [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] Partnership with a man called Martin Olson [?] with whom he built a restaurant. In February 1901, he moved to [unclear talking]. It was called Remington Roadhouse and it was there until December, 1904 when [unclear] to Fairbanks. They built a cabin to have a place to live and in the fall, he went over to Cleary. [Unclear talking], at the mouth Poker Creek. [Unclear talking.] When they get together, they talk about the old times. Arnold says that he [the partner] was at Chatanika and [unclear] Johnson, who was partners with [unclear, unclear talking]. He cut logs and they [unclear] square and they hauled the logs up the Cleary Creek [?]. It was a two-story building with log squares and that was there for three or four years [unclear].

40:31 In 1908, he decided to come to Fairbanks and build a hotel on First Avenue. That's the one that burned down later. That operated from 1908 to April 1st, 1923 when it burned. [Unclear talking.] Four companies from New York had the accommodations until 19th of June, but the hotel burned on April 1st. A second hotel was built to accommodate them until the 19th of June. President Harding [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] Then the hotel has been [unclear]. [Unclear talking.]

A person [Paul?] says that through the years he remembers that every 4th of July they had a band, and they always saw half a dozen of Nordale kids [unclear]. [Unclear reply, talking about musicians.] Tommy King played the drums. Their big

celebrations were 21st of June, the Midnight Sun, and then on the 4th of July.
[Unclear talking.]

At 43:57 the man says he wants to talk about a [unclear]. They had been down to Nenana where they were having a ball game and the rival team was Nenana [unclear]. They traveled by boat and the band was down there [unclear]. It happened that Fairbanks lost [unclear]. On their way out, they realized that they had to do something [unclear]. [Unclear talking.]

47:09 The reason they lost the game was that [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] The pitcher broke his arm trying to throw a curve [ball] [?]. [Unclear talking.]

There's a story about McCarthy, who, according to the stories, struck Fairbanks Creek. Another man says that it was actually [Unclear's] father and Old Tom [Unclear]. [Unclear talking.] Danny McCarthy [sp?] was quite a character. He got shot by his wife in 1919 or something like that. [Unclear talking.]

50:50 Charlie Thompson used to umpire all the ball games. Charlie Parker [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] They even bought people from Dawson to play, and from the army at Fort Gibbon. [Unclear talking.] Cordova came in 1922 or 1923. [Unclear talking.]

51:47 [Unclear] old days at the Armory. [Unclear] was built on 4th Avenue where Fairbanks Medical Center is now. [Unclear] 1906. Frank and Holly Gordon were married in 1907 and they held the reception on the lake. [Unclear talking].

Another man's voice says that in June 1922 to fall 1923 in the same armory that Ben Eielson [unclear and unclear] used to play basketball and that was the [unclear] gym they had in Fairbanks. [Unclear talking.] Roller skating and everything. [Unclear discussion.]

Paul continues with [unclear], who often mentioned about different spots. [Unclear talking about Cushman and Lacey that was later turned into a Standard [Oil] Garage.] Later, down on the other corner of Cushman, there was another saloon that later burned. [Unclear talking about the streets and other things.]

58:03 Someone is talking about how they did something in the old Aurora Rink where they had marathon roller-skating. They did 26 laps to the mile and they had to do 26 miles. [Unclear talking.] Marathon dancing. [Unclear talking.]

Bentley brothers, George and Harry [unclear]. Another person says they have so much money now that they are afraid to come and meet people. [Unclear.] George was a wonderful pianist. [Unclear] bull fiddle. [Unclear talking.]

Herman, Charlie, and Ed Bloom. [Unclear talking.] Two years ago the speaker saw Mrs. Herman Bloom in Seattle. She was 94 years old but when the speaker met her, she wanted to make a pot of coffee even though the speaker declined. [Unclear talking.] She is now living near [unclear] graveyard. [Unclear talking.]

1:01:21 Paul mentions Waterfront Brown [unclear]. He was a bill collector and if one couldn't collect one's money, one could turn to Waterfront Brown who took 50% of the money. He was called Waterfront because he was at the docks often to see that none of his customers would get aboard. He had quite the business.

He was always well dressed. [Unclear talking.] Once a "little Irishman" knocked Waterfront Brown in the jaw so that he fell down. "He" [unclear, who the speaker is talking about] went to get his hat and picked up a piece of paper, went over to a telephone pole and

[End of the recording.]