

H97-66-51

John "Dixie" Hall

July 26, 1962

Fairbanks, Alaska

Much of the recording is difficult to understand

John Hall landed in Anchorage in 1915. He has had a few good times and bad times. He left Colorado Springs for Seattle. He came up on the Admiral Evans and it was loaded with passengers. When they got into Ketchikan there were free drinks for everyone from the bartender because it was the first time in seven years they pulled into that town and the sun was shining. He picked up his nickname on that trip, Dixie. He went into the social hall and Inez Adams named him Dixie. He was born in Missouri.

He and his partner from Colorado decided to go to Fairbanks. They went gold prospecting. They built a boat and started out. The first time they set out on the boat they were stranded when the tide went out. He saw moose and bears fishing on the river and he liked the country. He traveled up the Susitna River to Talkeetna. They started up the Tokositna (?) River and prospected. They decided to come back down because it was fall. They got down to Susitna Station.

He worked as a carpenter's helper for Cap Lathrop.

He traveled back up the Susitna River. He fell into the river on that trip. They spent the winter at what would later be named Curry and they set up a store.

He went into the army during WWI. He worked in the transport corps. He said he had a nice time in the army.

In the spring of 1919 he went to Seattle. When he got paid he bought a ticket to Alaska. They got into Anchorage. He went to the Eska mountains in the summer of 1919. He prospected until the fall and then he traveled to Talkeetna to stay at a friend's cabin. That winter he worked on a copper outfit. There were sheep all over the place. They had an easy time hunting sheep. There were caribou there too. He went back over to mines. He talked about Jonesville. He met his wife at Chickaloon when she was teaching there. The miners went on strike at the mine. Ben Sullivan was the representative in Washington at that time. Dixie stayed at the mines until 1922.

He was married in 1922 in Anchorage. He then worked for the railroad.

He talked about the picture shows that were held on the weekends in Bethel. All the films had to come in on the boats at the end of the summer in August. This was the year 1929. Lots of people came into Bethel to see the films.

He took inventory for the company (N.C. Company) during the spring at four different posts. He would use a compass on the handlebars on the sled when he would travel between the posts. They stopped at Johnny's Place. When the weather was bad they just stayed in one place. He talked about the Japanese landing at Attu. He talked about needlefish on the Sitnik River and how they were fished. There was also a black fish that lived in the tundra lakes. The Natives would cut out a chunk of ice and have fish in it. He said the needlefish could be lit because they had so much oil in them. He talked about the Natives trading mink and white fox and how they hunted fox. He could make seventy miles a day on a dogsled. The country was flat.

He talked about the Native's from Nunivak Island. They would come into the trading post. He talked about the way they stored seal oil.

He took a job as a U.S. marshal in Fairbanks. Tony Diamond offered him the job. He worked for Joe McDonald. He talked about Al Nelson. He was then appointed clerk of the court by Harry Peck. He served as a clerk for twenty years. He also worked for the state courts.

Questions from the audience that can not be understood. He talked about the prices they paid for mink pelts.