

Call number: 02-00-109 SIDE B

Paul Kogonovich, Trip to Ester and Happy Mines, Ed Farrell.

January 25th, 1962

Summary created by: Varpu M Lotvonen

Date of summary's creation: 10/18/13

Series: Harrie Hughes Collection.

Notes: Original on 3-inch reel, master copy on CD.

Recording begins with unclear talking, probably picking up where previous side left off. Participants are Harrie Hughes, Paul Kogonovich, Irving Reed and an unnamed lady. Irving [?] talks about mining claims and homesteads. [Unclear discussion, lots of background noise.] [Break in the recording.]

At 16:05 recording resumes with Paul Kogonovich talking. Some other man talks about finding platinum-flakes from the Fairbanks Slough at College Road. The platinum looked like small tinfoil pieces, gray pieces. A man talks about a formation. [Unclear.] Another man says that somebody talked about copper at Black Rapids but the speaker has never seen the formations. Paul Kogonovich says that one has to "go over" 3000 feet and one can see a creek. Another man says it's right at the military recreation camp and that there is lots of it exposed there [unclear if they are still talking about platinum or copper]. Paul talks about problems crossing the river at the Black Rapids. Someone asks if there is any at the glacier itself. [Unclear due to Paul Kogonovich's thick accent.] It's mile or two miles above the roadhouse, below the glacier, across the river. About Hajdukovich mining molybdenum. Nobody wanted molybdenum. Harrie [?] says it was right at the edge of the experimental area that they have at the Big Delta. Military tests poison gas. Paul says there was a roadhouse and one could see Riley Creek go down. Rapids Roadhouse is mentioned. Harrie recognizes the place as a recreation camp and talks about a creek that sometimes has high waters. [Paul says something unclear.] [Unclear discussion.]

At 24:46 an unnamed man mentions the [Pioneer] Park project and Harrie starts talking about it: Harrie says that they have to get everything settled first and that then they have to elect a board who will make the by-laws and rules. The man asks about the Memorial Park. Harrie says that that was the City's idea and that it

will die a natural death since it was something they did to try to stop the Pioneers [of Alaska]. They called Dell Pedro Dump [?] and Harrie went to the [Fairbanks City] Council about it.

The City was going to call it the Pedro Memorial Park down by the City Dump. Harrie went to the council meeting to say that Pedro was a miner and that he didn't live in town but just "went there to throw his money around." Harrie introduced Frank Young as a geographic board member. Frank Young is the only civilian member of the State Geographic Board. He's supposed to help naming important places like mountain peaks and work with the National Geographic Board to reduce duplication of names. Harrie objected the City of Fairbanks Parks and Recreation Committee naming any park after a historical person without consulting the geographical board. "They stopped cold." The city wanted the Pioneers to take over the Memorial Park near the dump and get the Pioneer Park land [for their use], but Harrie said he couldn't do that since they had been granted that land [by the State].

27:05 Paul Kogonovich talks about some creek between Fairbanks and Healy but hesitates with the name so Harrie lists all the rivers and creeks in that stretch of the road. Teklanika is the right one. Paul says that just across the river, going up about 75 miles, there is [unclear] Creek. Harrie clarifies that it's up on Jumbo Mountain [sp?]. The other man says that there used to be a road there. Harrie says that that's where Bilo [sp?], Koskey [Koski? Kosky] and Robby [were]. [Unclear talking.] Harrie says he is going to end the recording with Paul Kogonovich and Irving Reed. [Break in the recording.]

At 29:35 Harrie says it's the 2nd side of the tape of Eddie Farrell's story about his early days in the Yukon. [As indicated later, it's January 25th, 1962 in Fairbanks, Alaska.] Ed talks about his trip from Fairbanks to Valdez. There wasn't much of a trail and no bridges then. They had to ferry across the streams the best they could and wait for the right time of the year and the right moment to cross. Harrie asks if there was any road at all, and Ed says that the trail was blazed in most places in 1911. Finally they got to Valdez in 9 days and there was quite a crowd gathered there.

Valdez had maybe 2000 people at that time and there was excitement about quartz. Harrie says he has 200 negatives taken in Valdez from 1903 to 1917 and that Ed would probably recognize some characters. Ed tells that they prospected on a little quartz vein, digging a tunnel until they "benched out". From there they

went to the Copper Country and prospected there for the rest of the winter. Harrie clarifies that it was in the Copper River, close to Kennecott. When Ed left Whitehorse, going towards Dawson, they ran into an Irishman who was pulling a sled with him. The man told he was from Boston. He was discouraged, and said that if only he was back in Boston he'd promise God and the people he would keep with silver and never mine gold.

The next spring Ed came back to Fairbanks, worked a while and then took a lease on Pedro Creek where he worked for the summer of 1914. In the fall they stampeded into Livengood. They went out from Fairbanks with a narrow-gauge railroad and fixed their packs. They had 80 pounds apiece and their rifles. There was a man named Wheeler who had reported a strike in Livengood. They were 13 days in the trip when got way off the trail and had to go back to west fork of the Tolovana. They got to Livengood and some fellow had just bedrocked a hole. It wasn't very encouraging that they had to take a microscope to see the fine gold. Anyway Ed and other staked a claim on the creek flats but there was no gold there. The people who came later staked claims on the benches and got nothing. The people who came after them went even further and finally stuck it at the 3rd Tier.

Harrie asks if Ed got any ground to mine in Livengood and he says no. It wasn't worth anything. Ed got back to Fairbanks that spring, in 1915. The big railroad celebration happened and after that, Ed started out to Ruby. He walked the 300 miles. Harrie wonders how Ed crossed the Yukon and Ed explains that the river was still frozen and he walked across the Yukon. Discussing whether Ed is the only man who ever walked from Fairbanks to Ruby.

At 36:09 Harrie asks what kind of equipment Ed have on the trip. Ed says he had a shoe pack for his feet and mitts. He didn't have snowshoes because the mail used to run there every week and the the trail was good all the way. When he got to Ruby he didn't have much money left so he worked there. Later he bought some ground with which he made a little money and from there he went to Mason Creek which is 40 miles below Tanana. There he spent close to 5 years, and his partner died there. Harrie asks if Walter Fisher was there but Ed says he was on the next creek, Grant Creek. His partner's name was Bill Ward and he and his wife were there with Ed.

In 1930 Ed went to Rampart and bought the Idaho bar which was another failure. They made wages there but that was all, so they abandoned that and bought into

Little Manouka. Jack Elliott and Ed worked on that for several years. It was a good creek and it had been worked from 1896. The ground Ed and his partner had was recorded then. Harrie asks if Ed knew the old-time characters around Rampart, and if he ever saw Rex Beach. Ed says he did. He never got to meet Jack London. Harrie wants to know if Ed knew Jack [John?] McCord from the Livengood – country. He says he did. [More talking about Jack.] Ed knew Pedro. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie asks if Ed ever participated on the Fish Wheel Stampede and he says he did. He didn't think anything of it first but the news were promising and so he took a plane there – that was the easiest stampede he ever had. There was a party with a little drill and they drilled 50 feet but never got a color, not a speck of gold. Everything slumped around there: there was a store, a speakeasy, a restaurant, a saloon and so on. Ed stayed there for 2 weeks and came back.

Harrie asks if that stampede was a faux one and if it was started by the airplane companies. Ed says there were two boys whose father had a store there and it was their fish wheel that supposedly brought up all that gold. Ed says that if there ever was anything in the fish wheel, it must have been copper from the banks. Harrie talks more about the rumors that the Fish Wheel Stampede was started by the transportation companies but Ed doesn't think so. He says he "went into it the best I could" but doesn't think the rumors were from Carl [the shop keeper?]. He thinks it was just a happenstance. That wasn't the last stampede Ed participated in and just last winter he stampeded over to Goose Creek 30 miles out of Livengood. Red Anderson [sp? Andersen?] did some drilling there and Ed had sank a hole or two there a year earlier. They didn't find anything that would have encouraged them.

Harrie says that Ed is one of the early stampeders who still do mining and prospecting, and get up and go despite of their age. Harrie talks more about Ed's pioneering status and closes the interview. He says that present in the interview with Ed Farrell were Harrie Hughes, Mrs. Farrell and Frank Young. January 25th, 1962 in Fairbanks, Alaska. [Break in the recording.]

45:29 Harrie says Ed is going to talk about Ben Falls. Ed starts his story: He came out of Goose Creek last spring with his cat and Ben had some ground at Wilber Creek. They put a cut out there last summer and there is still some ground to "put in" and maybe they will do it next summer. Ed says he hasn't given up on mining yet and that he has lots of creeks to investigate, especially along the new Nome

road. He expects going there to prospect. Harrie asks how old Ben Falls is and Ed says he's 82 or 83 years old. Ed himself is 80 years old next summer. Harrie talks about young cheechakos who don't see the light in prospecting. Harrie and Ed agree that there are tons of opportunities for anyone who wants to continue prospecting. Ed says he has some good prospects but that they wouldn't pay off yet and require more work. [Break in the recording.]

Ed is going to talk about Dawson a little: There was a building there called "the Exchange." They used to have a little show there. The boys who felt gay would go there and buy drinks for girls. The beer slingers would take the order, weight out the gold and take whatever they needed. Ed thought it was funny that people didn't get gypped a whole lot. One time when Klondike Kate came out and sang while the audience threw small nuggets at her, one of the big operators from Eldorado [?] Jim Hall, who was sitting in one of the boxes, threw a whole \$500 or \$600 dollars' worth of gold on the stage. Kate looked up at him and thanked, saying that Jim can now come down and kiss her. [Laughter.]

Harrie asks if any of the people are still alive whom Ed knew in Dawson. He says he hasn't been there. Harrie interrupts him by asking if he knew Jean Karbell [sp?], Van Bibber and Jerusalem Joe [unclear?] who passed away last year. Ed says he's always wanted to go back there and see the old place. Frank invites him to go with them the next summer and Harrie tells about the celebration there. Ed says he's always kinda busy that time of the year. Harrie thanks Ed for the recording and says that nobody can use them without a written consent from Ed, "and that's the law."

At 50:30 Harrie says that Mrs. Farrell is going to say a few words about her life. She says she is Rebecca Farrell and she married Ed Farrell in 1946. She came up into Fairbanks in 1945 and Ed already had a connection with Rebecca's former husband who died in 1944. She came up to get a lease on the ground that Ed had had on Golden Creek. Much to her surprise, she was proposed to and next year she came back from Outside where she worked as a nurse at the University of Montana. She came back in 1946 and she married Ed. Her maiden name was Rebecca Evans but she had been married to a man in the Nome country where the man had a dredge at Solomon River, 50 miles out of Nome. His name was Suckstorf [sp? Zucksdorff?]. Rebecca is a charter member of the Auxiliary no. 8 of Fairbanks.

Harrie asks if she has a family of her own to which she says she has no children. Mother and two sisters are gone and her only relatives are two nephews who live Outside. Harrie thanks Mrs. Farrell "for that little bit of information."

[End of the recording.]