

**Summary for H00-135-05**

**Frank Young is interviewed on 6/16/54 by an unidentified female in Fairbanks, Alaska; Muktuk Marston's V-J Day speech from 8/14/45 in Nome, Alaska is re-aired on 1/6/55, with King Islanders songs/drums from the same date following; E. H. Stroecker is interviewed by Al Bramstedt in Fairbanks, Alaska on 1/21/47**

SIDE 1

Frank Young is interviewed on June 16, 1954 in Fairbanks, Alaska by an unidentified female. He's the former president of the Pioneers of Alaska. Back in 1905 he was a young boy in the boomtown of Fairbanks, selling the first published newspaper, the Tanana Miner. It first came out in spring 1905, by George Bellows. He figures supplies must have come up the Yukon by boat. They sold each paper for 25 cents. First and Second Avenues were the only streets with a little bit of sidewalk; the rest were just stumps. He was about 12. Newsboys were treated pretty nice in those days. Once he went into the old Tanana Saloon and the bartender told him to go sell a paper to the man at the roulette wheel. He bought all the papers Young had with him, 25 or so. Then he gave the papers back so he could go out and sell them a second time. This was W. F. Thompson, who later started the News-Miner, in 1907 or 1908. Most of the news was local news since it was so hard to hear of world events.

The Tanana Miner burned up in the 1906 fire. The next paper was the Alaska Citizen or Fairbanks Daily Times, followed by the News-Miner. The fire destroyed everything on the waterfront. The school wasn't affected. Frank went to a different little school on Second Ave., on the Ford block, where Ray's parking is now located. Charlie Kraemer, the Busby boys, and Freddie Johnson all went to school with Young.

Before they moved to Fairbanks, Young's family had lived in Dawson. They came in from Juneau in 1898-1899. His father was in the restaurant business. In Dawson he had The Branch Café and in Fairbanks Young thinks the name was the old Model Café. Young's mother is still living. She's 84 years old and lives on the farm with Young's sister, Mrs. Husack.

Young used to play in an orchestra with Vic Duran in the first movie theater in Fairbanks, and at dances out at Fox and Chatanika. The theater was located where the Orpheum Theater is now. Dick Thorn, an old Englishman, started it. Young played drums, piano, trombone, etc. Young is going to help the radio station with some old folksongs.

He later worked for the Times as the printer's devil, doing cleanup around the printing plant. Just below the Oddfellows Hall on First Avenue was where it was located. The California Saloon and Pioneer Hotel used to be downtown, which was the center of town in those days. They used to get the Seattle PI or the San Francisco Examiner about once a month, and sold them on the streets for \$1.

Young also did a little mining, participating in the stampedes at Ruby, Koyukuk, Sushanna, Iditarod, and Marshall. He never met Jack London, but knew the man who London's book, Burning Daylight, was about. Burning Daylight's real name was Elam Harnish. He came into Dawson in the spring of 1898 and was camped on the Thirtymile River. He used to get up at daylight. London, who was a younger man, liked to sleep in.

So Harnish would say, "Come on, wake up, London, you're burning daylight." That's how Harnish got the nickname.

On January 6, 1955, Muktuk Marston's V-J Day speech at Nome, Alaska from 8/14/45 is re-aired. Buzz Walters announces. The celebration is in the native school, over 300 Eskimos are present, in mukluks and parkas; there are few whites present. The drummers are on the floor. Chief John of the King Islanders speaks in Eskimo, perhaps conferring an Eskimo name on the major. Then Major Marston speaks.

He talks of celebrating the victory over the Japanese. He says that every Eskimo present is a member of the Tundra Army or regular Army. The Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor and landed on Attu and Kiska. Alaskans were unorganized. Marston says he asked the natives to organize to protect their homes and families. All able-bodied Eskimos answered the first call. The Tundra Army successfully met the Japanese balloon attack. General Gaffney cited HTTP Co., at Ruby for recovering a pilot who'd parachuted from a disabled plane. The Tundra Army broke 100s of miles of trail, repaired log shelters, put out fires, etc., all without pay. They have proved their loyalty, Marston says.

He salutes the men of the tundra and wishes them peace and prosperity. He doesn't say "goodbye" but something in Kobuk Eskimo meaning "sometime again."

Buzz Walters announces the recording of the King Island Dancers who danced at the V-J Day celebration on 8/14/45. Several songs, with drumming, follow.

SIDE 2

Note: On Side 2 there is a lapse of several minutes before the recording comes on.

E. H. Stroecker is interviewed by Al Bramstedt in Fairbanks, AK on 1/21/47. Stroecker is a prominent banker in Fairbanks. His home in the States was San Francisco, CA. He was young and his mother thought it was a good idea for him to leave his home and travel to a different place. They left April 19, 1900. It took them 35 days to get to Dutch Harbor, encountering many storms and calms along the way. He stayed at Dutch Harbor for several days, since it was impossible to get up to Nome because of ice at that time. During a calm spell on the trip, E. H. and another guy dove off the ship and swam around in the Pacific.

Stroecker used to be a semi-professional ball-player, and once they saw him play in Dutch Harbor, they insisted he stay a few days to play ball with them. The harbor was full of ships of all kind, headed for Nome. Stocker's boat never made it to Nome, though.

When they sailed out, they followed the Peninsula and stopped at Port Moller and Herendeen Bay, where they saw some natives who lived in the cliffs, and lots of ducks, caribou, bear, and clams. They took in most all of the rivers in Bristol Bay, then went to Good News Bay, from there into the Kuskokwim, where they went as far as the Ik River. From there 3 of them went in a small boat to Bethel. They met Dr. Romig and the census collector at that time. Dr. Kilbuck, a Cherokee missionary with the Moravian church was going up to take census. They went with him in a Peterborough canoe 650 miles, to the

Stony River and the Yellow River. Then they came back down, and got their own schooner, and went on down to Dutch Harbor and back to San Francisco.

Stroecker had a position as an accountant in the Hawaiian Islands that he passed up, since he had the Alaska fever now. He went into Valdez in the spring. He got caught on the Valdez glacier for 4 days, snowed in. He mined during the summer. When they got back to Valdez in the fall, his partner returned to the Outside.

Stroecker went to Slate Creek the second spring, and in the spring of 1903, after the big strike in the Nizina country, he went in with another fellow, Smith, and a couple horses. Another fellow staked them to go over to the headwaters of the White River. They packed over there all summer, he and 9 horses and Bob Falconson and 2 mules, until November. Five men wintered there that winter. They went back to Nizina in the spring, mined all summer, and in the fall, Stroecker packed over to the headwaters of the Sushanna River. Knowing the glaciers, the Skolai, the Fredrika, and the Nizina, he then guided 14 people over to the headwaters. At the head of the river, they whipsawed lumber, built a boat, and went down the Sushanna River, arriving in Fairbanks on October 4. There were possibly 15,000 people and 20,000 dogs in the town.

He dug a foundation in December for the California Saloon. After that he went to the creeks and got a job with Swiftwater Bill mining underground. Next he ran the water wagon for Jack Brisell, while he was on his "jamboree." Then he stampeded into the Kantishna and on his return to Fairbanks, R. A. Jackson was to survey the Chatanika River for Mr. Murphy, as in Murphy Ditch in Nome. He went out with them and stayed until June. After this he went upriver with 2 guys and cut logs, and brought a raft 110 feet long of stove wood into Fairbanks. Ike Loomis, the superintendent for roads under Mr. Zugg, was starting to slash a winter road from here to Delta. Stroecker became the cook for them, then the packer with the horses until October 1.

Kinghorn and Loomis had the mail contract when Stroecker got back, and he was sent down to Tanana in a small boat with Fred Date. Before they got there they were froze in and had to sled part of the way. He kept at the mail run all that winter. After that he did various other things, including working for E. R. Peeples for 11 years, in the store where the Nordale Hotel is now. After he sold out, Mr. Wood got Stroecker to come work as a teller in the bank. In 6 months he'd become the cashier of the bank.

Stroecker gets great pleasure in going over what's happened in his past, and has hopes for the future. His children and all his interests are here, and he has no intention of ever leaving.