

Summary of H00-58

10/67

Stanley Zaverl, Fairbanks police chief, with unidentified interviewer talking about the Fairbanks flood of 1967.

(Note: The interviewer didn't use a mike on himself and seems to have situated Stanley too far away to be picked up accurately so the result is a very muffled tape that is difficult to hear--RLR 11/10/00)

Stanley first became aware that the rising waters were becoming a problem on Saturday August 12, 1967. He drove to Nenana to pick up his wife, Rose, and the kids. Their vehicle was the last one to leave Nenana before the bridge was closed. By Sunday evening the water was rising in Fairbanks and by Monday all off-duty personnel were called in to work. Stan spent the rest of his time at the police station. He didn't come home, staying at the station 24 hours a day.

Early Tuesday morning the basement of the police station had to be evacuated and everyone moved up to the 2nd floor. Almost all of the houses in Island Homes had water in them. Boats had started operating by then. Stores were closed for about a week. Had only one drowning death due to flood. No violent crime.

Fairbanks got back to normal after a week. The Nenana people were evacuated to Barnette School where they stayed for about two weeks.

Fairbanks City Police Dept. officers had to use military vehicles until they could get their patrol cars back (Aug. 20, 1967). They had no uniforms since the lockers were downstairs in the flooded basement. They also lost many of their records on license plates and such.

Tape ends, no signoff.