

Call number: 02-00-61A Pt. 1

Albert Trana Pioneer Stories, August 5, 1962 and July 5, 1962

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

Date(s) of creation of summary: 4/1/2013

Notes: Original on 5 inch reel. Master copy CD.

Mr. Trana is telling a story. He is talking about the 18th floor of a corporation building. U.E. [?] Williams is a doctor being discussed by Mr. Trana. A pension is discussed. He is talking about a time when a man asked him what hospital he wanted to go to. He says he went to the hospital and in the morning they operated on him. He says he was on the table for two and a half hours. He says the hospital used casts and no ether. He was in the hospital for a week or 10 days. He got his own place for 15 dollars a month. He used to go to an office every day. He says he went to the office for 3 or 4 four weeks. It was no use according to Albert Trana. He says "You can do just as you please, but you can't be saved." Much of Mr. Trana's speech is inaudible but it is clear that he is talking about a doctor. He said he went to the hospital the next morning and there was a younger doctor names Williams. Mr. Trana was lying flat on the table. Mr. Trana says he was complaining about the stump [he had arm surgery]. He says he looked at his arm and there was no scab on it and not a speck of blood. After the surgery the doctor told him he can go right back to Seattle. Mr. Trana discussed Dr. Carter from the railroads in Fairbanks. A male interviewer says he knows Dr. Carter. Mr. Trana discusses paying the hospital for the surgery. Mr. Trana discusses a man that is about 65 years old who Trana paid 125 dollars.

Mr. Trana again discusses his surgery. Mr. Trana says he has no use for haggling and also mentions something about a horse doctor. He says he broke three ribs. He says he slipped and fell and broke three ribs near the spine when he was walking on a slough. The male interviewer discusses a doctor who would administer health services for Natives in Alaska. The Dr. is name Shriverd [?] and he was born and raised in South Africa. He would get his medicine from Brazil. Mr. Trana discusses Shriverd and a school in Anchorage.

At 16:50 the male interviewer announces that Mr. Trana is going to discuss Mount Katmai, the volcano, when it blew up in 1912. Mr. Trana says that everything happened in spring of 1912. He says he was with Bob Lang and Bert Arthur, trapping at Chickaroo Bay. He said he was right around where Anchorage is right now. It was 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening. He said it sounded like someone was throwing stumps. They went to a spring and put up a tent and that's where they stayed. There were half dozen mines where they were. He said the following morning everything was cloudy and there was ash. He mentions something inaudible about Captain Cramer. Captain Cramer asked Trana to clean his boat because of the ash. Mr. Trana says he was in Livengood.

At 22:15 the recording stops and a man says this is the end of an interview with Albert Trana and Harry Hughes. He says this tape was recorded for the Pioneers of Alaska and the Yukon Order of Pioneers. The day is July 5th, 1962 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Music plays.

Mr. Trana makes another appearance on the recording at 24:10. The date is August the 10th 1962. Harry Hughes is at Albert Trana's home. The address is 1936 Egan Avenue in Fairbanks, Alaska. Harry Hughes says he is going to ask Mr. Trana some questions. Mr. Hughes says he is recording for pioneers of Alaska. Albert Wilhelm Trana was born December 16th, 1882 in Namsos, Norway. Mr. Trana left Norway in 1905. He came to America via Halifax, Montreal, and Chicago. He took the train in Chicago to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He then made his way to Fort Laramie, Wyoming and then to Seattle. He got to Seattle around 1906. In 1907 there was a panic. That started in late October early November. Trana's profession in Norway was a printer. He met a reporter working on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The report says he was in Tacoma yesterday and told Albert he could get him into printing again. Trana went to Tacoma to do printing and was paid 25 dollars a week. Trana says every Saturday he would go to Seattle. Trana says he worked in Tacoma until havoc began a couple months after he started, late February early part of March. Railroads were being built in Alaska and there were advertisements in Seattle newspapers. He said he went to Alaska on 35 dollars. He said he went to work on snow sheds at Mile 49 and Mile 55. He said he also shoveled snow. He says a snowslide killed 4 men where he was working. He says he went down the Mile 49 right across from a lake where a bridge was being put up. He says he did a little of everything. He discusses a speed boat and an Irishman. Trana had 20 sticks of dynamite and he would go on top of the icebergs in order to blow them up. He says he got another job on a boat for Handle Freight. Trana says he got hit while working on the boat and fell into the ice cold river. He discusses a powder house. Trana discusses an explosion of 29 tons of black powder. This was in winter of 1909. He returned to Seattle and he talks about Flathead, Coeur d'Alene near Spokane. He says he got land on the reservations for mining just by signing up. He talks about he was on Lewis River by Kalama. He talks about a Native who worked with shipping and also discusses a double-headed hydraulic pump. He talks about working on a stream mining. The Native picked up some quartz and Trana says he was good friends with him. The Native did day shift and Trana did night shift. They went to Vancouver with two girls and their mother.

At 47:50 Trana discusses working on the Alaska railroad. He discusses the Jewish people making money. He talks about laying sidewalks up to Capitol Hill in Seattle. There were advertisements in the Post-Intelligencer in Seattle about hiring people for railroaders. Trana discusses walking across Seward. He says they went to Sunrise, where they made a wrong turn and had to come back. He says it was fall and they had to sleep on the winter trail. They got up at Forest Road Pass. They met three guys who said they were going to the Iditarod. A sack of 50 pounds of flour was 45 dollars. He says he built a summer cabin and trapped and hunted. He says there was no meat being shipped in so money was to be made selling meat. The game warden's name was Shayes. He was stationed in Seward. Shayes told Trana that if he got meat to sell it, don't destroy anything. People would get arrested and thrown in jail for throwing away meat. Some men got three months in jail for throwing away meat in Valdez.

At 52:50 Harry Hughes says that he wants to know more about Sunrise and Hope, Alaska. Trana says Charlie [inaudible because Harry Hughes cuts Trana off as he is saying the last name] was in Sunrise

along with other old timers. Cottage Bay is discussed and the old timers used to come from there. Trana discusses Lynch Creek and how about 7 miles up there was a big cabin. At Snipers Point there was a little bit of gold, but that is all. Lynch Creek there was gold. Hughes asks Trana if he remembers who was at Hope. Trana says Hope got settled because of mining especially near Bear creek. Trana says they are still mining near Hope. Trana says Ed Huhn was a colorful kid and Huhn visited Trana in the early 1940's. Huhn visited and told Trana he came from Anchorage. He came from a mine in Hope and Huhn still had the same boat he had in 1910. The boat was a Kodiak. He talks about building a boat with Ed Huhn in 11 days and how hard they worked. The recording stops.