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Interview at Big Delta with John Hajdukovich, Steve Bojanich, J. McDonald, and Frank Young

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

A man says that they have finally gotten to John Hajdukovich's and Rika Wallen's home. The man recording says he just saw the goats. The man says that Steve and Frank Young are talking to John and they are getting acquainted after many years. A man is discussing Governor Egan talking in Fairbanks. He then points out the Governor and Dixie Hall [He may be showing pictures]. He shows a picture of Dixie and his sister. He is showing various pictures about Fairbanks. One of the men points out Mrs. Beyanke [?], a waitress who works at Golden Days. Mrs. Norvil [?] picture was taken at Second St. and Cushman. Ingrid Lee is discussed. Norman Hadley is mentioned. Hadley used to play baseball at the old town of Chena in 1904. Harry Hughes is discussing the picture and environment when the picture was taken because he is in the picture with Hadley. Another picture is of the Larsens who were married at the old Nordale [?] Hotel on the Chena River in 1912. The woman's name was Ida and the husband was a miner [The man's name may have been John]. A miner name Harrison from Nome is discussed. Harrison was mining from 1899-1915 in the Nome area. Another name mentioned is Frank Young Roses [?]. Biel Lake is mentioned as a fishing area and one of the men says that it used to be named Biel's Lake. John H says Biel's Cache used to be over there. Captain Biel put up a line from Tanana River to the Hither Beach Delta. Half of the cache was between Big Delta and Donnelly's, that's why they called it Biel's Cache. There were a bunch of mules and lots of logs around Biel's Lake. There is a picture of Jim Binkley's Discovery River Boat. There is a picture of Arlene Darling who is a painter in Fairbanks. There is a picture of the Governor when he went up to Dawson the previous month. The old Orpheum Theatre is discussed and how it was remodeled and refurbished. There is a mention of the President of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. Commissioner Cameron is mentioned. Cameron is the head of the Government of the Yukon Territory. There is a man behind Cameron with a bald head name Ennis Taylor. One of the men says he met Ennis Taylor at Eagle. Pete Smith, a miner at Pedro Gulch. There is a picture of Jack Butterworth and Andy Wicken saying goodbye to people in Dawson. One of the men says he is going to show a picture of Tory Anderson's mine.

At 8:20 of the recording one of the men asks John Hajdukovich if he can ask him a couple questions for the record of the Pioneers of Alaska. Frank Young is going to ask the questions. John says he went to Juneau in the fall of 1903. He left the old country in May and landed in Juneau in November. He left Juneau on the fourth of July in 1904 for Dawson. Chena is discussed. John says in 1904 he got to Fairbanks and stayed in bunks in a little building. Each bunk had a blanket. There was a boat named the Cutter. He says he followed the ice to Chena and from there to Cleary Creek. Before the Cleary Creek he went up the Bonnefield Trail. John mentions a hunter named Bill. John says he knew Sam Bonnefield. John says he doesn't know how Gold King got its name but he says he used to prospect at

the head of the Wood River. John says two people were with him but he forgot their names. He baked bread with no stove and no oven. He built a big fire on the sand and looked all over the bar and he got a flat rock probably 7 or 8 inches thick. He threw it on the fire and the fire kept going for a long time. He mixed the dough and if the rock is black then it's not ready. When the rock was ready he removed all of the coals from the fire and got a rag that was kind of damp and covered the dough on the rock with the rag. Then he covered the rock dough and rag with sand. In a short time the bread swelled up. 40 minutes later he took the sand off and pulled the bread off and took the rag off and the bread was ready. John did guiding from 1923 to 1931 he guided hunters from New York and other places. After that he didn't want to guide anymore even though he was the best paid guide in Alaska. Frank says that he heard once upon a time that John was one of the high priced guides. John discusses William Beach from New York. William Beach was the President of the Portland Cement Company. Beach and others came up in 1923 and Frank took them up. Dr. Elton also accompanied. Frank says in 1927 Mr. H. Vanderlin came to Fairbanks from Boston and Frank was the guide. In 1929, [inaudible] visited and he was more interested in taking pictures of the country than anything else. John says he tried his best to give them good service. Some of the young people were looking for game and they got the game. Frank says that at the time one of the things he heard was John got a good salary. John confirmed. John says he was the highest price guide in Alaska. He said he would receive \$5,000-\$6,000, maybe more. He says he used to go out during the day and when it was time to come back there were settler horses waiting for them. John is still doing prospecting. John will be 83 on the 15th of November. Harry Hughes says on behalf of Igloo Number Four, Pioneers of Alaska, they thank John for allowing them to interview him. A man asks John how many horses he had in 1932. John says he quit in 1931. John says he had 25 horses. The man asking the questions says he remembers John and two men coming to Fairbanks. He says Slim [Louie Ginsel [?]] was on the ferry. The man says the kids were up the river and they had a lot of crystals and the Natives were hired and the kids were throwing tin cans in the water. The man says he walked to the Road House and one of the guys was from New York [Or someplace] and got telegraphs. The men from New York opened the telegraphs and they were playing the stock market. The recording cuts out at 25:00. While they were hunting for 3 days they had made two or three thousand dollars. Mary and Ralph were driving. The people from New York were good friends with Jim Walker the mayor.

At 27:00 a new recording starts. Harry Hughes is saying that they just left John Hajdukovich's and Rika Wallen's and Harry took a couple pictures. Harry says that they are on their way to the Road House. He is driving in a car. The time is 3:08 in the afternoon. Harry says that's the end of John Hajdukovich's. Steve from the Model Café got left off at the Café. Macdonald brought Harry home. He says the tail end was not too clear because the battery was getting weak on the recorder. The recording ends.