

Call Number: 02-00-62-05 Pt. 1

1964 Earthquake Report, 1964, No Location

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

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Notes: Original on 5 inch reel, copy on CD

The recording begins as Harrie Hughes says he is recording for Igloo Four, Pioneers of Alaska. Nick White is being interviewed. Nick White spent time on the interior of Alaska and on the Alaska Railroad. Nicholas V. White. Nick was born in Macin, Yugoslavia. His father and mother's names were Raymond and Helen. Nick had a brother named Dan who passed away. Nick was first in Alaska in 1907. He landed in Valdez. He says there were lots of people in Valdez. After Valdez, White went to Cordova. He was in Cordova in 1910. He was prospecting in Cordova. He stayed in Cordova for one season then went to Seattle. He returned to Alaska in 1916 where he landed in Seward to work on the Alaska Railroad. He says he didn't stay in Seward for very long, he went to Anchorage. White says he remembers Sam Estes. Harrie Hughes said he worked on the railroad in later years and now there are only two or three alive from White's era who still works for the railroad. White says he worked contract work and did construction. He worked the Chikanoodle [?] Naneshka Branch. Hughes says he worked at Esther Branch. Hughes says one time a train broke loose and smashed 7 cars. Hughes discusses working in Nushagak, Naknek, Billingham, Snag Point, White Camry. White says 1929 he was in Mile 52 between Seward and Anchorage. Hughes asks White if he remembers John Markowitz, a prospector that was down there for many years. He lived for a while at Tunell and Grand View from 1910 and on. He lives at Indian right now. White says he knows Pete Copper. Hughes says he remember Old Man Strong who had tunnels all around a mountain he had near Indian. Tom Saublin and his Brother Mick is mentioned as having a prospect at Indian. White says he never got any money prospecting. White came to the Fairbanks area in 1930. He went to Anchorage for a short time then returned to Fairbanks.

At 9:25 Hughes asks White to name all the people in a section the way he did a previous time starting with the ones in Seward working on the railroad. White mentions Frank Leslie being a foreman in the yard. George Corlele [?] was a road master. Louie Lee was a section foreman at mile 7. John was a foreman. [Inaudible] was foreman at Granuel [?]. Sam Rogers was a foreman at Mile 52. Sam Mcneese was below Sam Roger. Joe Bryant was below Sam Mcneese. Between Porter Creek and Anchorage was Jack Foreman. In the yard there was McCutcheon [Senator]. White asks if he remembers when the tunnels were being built by McKinley Park. In 1922 he was a guard at Esther Inc. Number 3 between Kahitna and Healy. For recreation in Anchorage they used to get food and smoke cigars. There was lots of room. Hughes says he used to go visit old man Shone and Kosloski. White says Andy Shone was postmaster. His son used to be a doctor. Kennedy's had a star. Ike Hayless is mentioned. Cal Thompson's pictures are shown from 1903-1913 to White. Hughes is showing White the pictures to see if he recognizes anything. White says he was never interested in the buildings. White says he was

traveling fast. White never went on a stampede. White says he was trapping in Nelchina. White says there were no road houses back then. Hughes says Frank Young went through before any roadhouses then. The only road house White knows about was down at Akitna that he knows about.

At 16:17 Hughes asks White if he knows of Andy Marino near the McKinley Park area. White says he knows Morris Marino. Hughes asks if he know Andrew Dragic. White says he knows Dragic was in Heeley for a long time. White says he remembers Jack Singleton. White says he knew quite a few people back then but a lot of times didn't know their name. White says he never got married. Hughes says a lot of people move to Alaska and stayed single. White says it was hard to get a job back in the early 1900's and the jobs didn't pay much. At first they started at \$3 a day. Lastly it was \$4 a day. A mucker got \$2.60 a day. In Kennecott there wasn't good pay because there wasn't a union. White says he trapped in Sitka and he caught minks, lynx, wolverine, and fox. White says he never saw wolves but he saw bear. White says he only saw one bear at a time. Harrie Hughes says in 1938 he saw thirteen brown bears in one patch of berries. Hughes says he worked on the bridge on the Piledriver and everyday he would see bears. Jimmy Vale and Jack Mcguire were the foremen. Johnny Blackmon was foreman. Sid Shelden was foreman. White says Sid Shelden used to be at Nenana.

At 21:28 Hughes asks White if he knows "any good stories now?" White says he couldn't tell him because he forgets lots of things. Hughes says we all forget things. Joe Crigley [?] is known by White well. Mrs. Crigley was alive after he died. White says he worked on the McKinley Park Road. Jack Holhoff and four or 5 Russians worked on the road at the same time. John Romanov is mentioned as one of the workers. Hughes talks about Bill Taylor. Will Dunkel is mentioned and Wila Creek. Kosloskis are mentioned by Hughes and the store in Anchorage. Old Kosloski used to by furs. Mrs. Kosloski used to be known by White and they had three boys. Old man Kosloski used to tell stories to White when he came back from Kansas City. White doesn't remember the stories. White says Kosloski moved to Anchorage. Old man Kosliski used to give White deals. Hughes asks him if he knew Johnny Swaggler when he would trade and trapper. Swaggler was 94. White says he knew Swaggler and his wife. They both lived in Seattle. Sometimes Swaggler has a place in Tacoma. Bob Bloom is mentioned. White says he remembers Bloom. The recording stops at 27:50 and resumes with Hughes saying he is going to transfer the interview he had with Van Diver on July 5th, 1963 at Pelly River at the Pelly River Indian Camp on his way back to Alaska from Washington D.C. Hughes is heard on the recording saying that a little Indian boy brought him down from the store to Van Divers cabin. He says he's been visiting for the last couple of hours with Van. Van is going to talk for Frank Young and some of the other Pioneers. He says hello to Frank and Mrs. Young and all of the family. He asks Frank how everything is his way. He asks if Frank is coming up to see him on the 17th and he'll be looking for Frank. He says there aren't many people in Dawson now. Diver and White are talking about Skagway and diver says there were 5 or 6 young people and Whiskey was commander on the steam boat. He commanded to the saloon Sophie's Place. Whiskey asked Van who that fellow is down there and Van says that's his brother and Whiskey asked if he could hire Van's brother. Van says him and his friends started with their backs together. Tommy got ahead and some fella came along and told Tommy not to play a gambling game because it was crooked. The man running the game said that no man can call his game crooked. The man then says he called that game a crook and the man was crooked. The two men continued arguing

and words were exchanged. Billy the Mug had a saloon in Seattle and his place was like Sophie's Place. Harrie says down on Yesler Way [Seattle]. Van says a man put a hand on his shoulder and he looked up and asked him what his name was and he said John Cross. John Cross was around when Soapy Smith was killed. John Cross went to the lower river. John Cross was a nice man. Sommers was from West Virginia the same as Van. Sommers was running on a lumber train with a fella. There was shooting. Arthur Sommers is mentioned. John Cross lived in Alaska. Lots of murderers and killers lived in Alaska. They are at the Pelly River at Van Bivers [?] house and there is a raft being built across the river. Shorty is Van Biver's wife. Van Biver says she used to like liquor. Van Biver says he doesn't drink to get drunk but he likes beer. Van Biver says he has about 35-36 grandchildren. Jim Mcneil is discussed and Van Biven says he wanted McNeil to hire two Indians and Mcneil said no but Biven said he should. Biven says Natives could get a job or public works. One on pat has 4 children, George has 5 children, JJ has four children, Rita has two, Alicia with 2, Alex with two, Lucy with 4, May with 6, Richard with 2, and Jay Brown with 2. Van Biver has a total of 32 children and grandchildren. Shorty is saying something in the background. He tells a story about being on the Nenana for 18 months. He says no man was ever happy as him at his leisure. He says he was concerned with prospecting and hunting. He said he had tobacco, tea, and cabbages. There was plenty of game. There were big trees over the water and it was raining. He says he was catching and eating fish. He says he saw a moose. He says he shot at the moose and didn't get it. He greased his gun with porcupine grease and the cool weather and rain made it so he couldn't bust a cap. He cleaned the gun and followed a moose trail and came to a big river. The river would flood so he wouldn't cross it. He turned back and he was cutting through thick on the way to the gun. He saw another moose and fired and got the moose. The story ends and Harrie Hughes says the recording stopped so they could watch a man build a raft and a man and woman are on the raft raffling the ores.