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Jans Walzene and Andrew Wicken Interview, August 15-20, 1962, No Location

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Notes: Original on 5 inch reel, copy on CD

The recording starts with Harrie Hughes proclaiming that the recording is a recording of a trip taken by Harrie Hughes, Andrew Wicken, and Jans Walzene to Dawson City Discover Day Festival and the Yukon Order of Pioneer Days. The recording stops and a new version of Hughes, Wicken, and Walzene traveling begins with Harrie Hughes saying that the date is July 15th, 1962. They are starting on a trip to Dawson City. They left Fairbanks at 2:20 am and they are about 18 miles out of town right now and the sky is starting to get light. Jans says it is a fine morning and it looks like it's going to be a beautiful day. Andrew says this is his third trip to Dawson City.

The recording resumes with Harrie saying they spotted a moose and they are moving towards 26 Mile toward Dawson Field. The time is 2:50 am. Jans says he went over the current road they are on in 1910 when there was hardly a trail. There were three or four bridges in 365 miles. He says he managed to get through O.K. Jans says he remembers the roadhouse at Richardson, 75 miles out of Fairbanks. Jans was in the country 41 years before he made his first trip back to the states. This is Jans' first trip to Dawson. They are passing the Eielson Airbase.

The time is now 3:20 am and they are passing the Aurora Lodge Big Susitna River Bridge. Harrie says it's getting more daylight and slightly overcast right now. A red fox crossed the road. Harrie is going to share every game they see in the 436 mile trip because he wants people to know how much game has been seen on the trip. They are now at Birch Lake and they are at the south end of the lake and they have seen a nice big cow moose feeding. The time is now 3:44 am. It is still cloudy and overcast.

They are now at Tenderfoot Creek about 75 miles from Fairbanks. They saw two moose feeding. There used to be two mines where they are right now. The last man who mined them came from Arizona and he put all his money into the mine and he got sick and died in the hospital. Harrie says he used to come down and see him but can't remember his name.

The time is 4:15 am and they are crossing Shaw Creek and there is a sunrise that looks like solid gold creeping up. The time is now 5 am and they have left Big Delta and they are at mile 1407 from Dawson Creek to Canada on the ALCAN Highway. They are headed for Tok Junction. The time is now 5:20 am and they crossed the Big Gerstle River between Tok and Big Delta. It is cloudy and there is a little rain. They just passed Dot Lake and it is straight up 6 am. They are headed right for Tok Junction and they are passing mile 1359 on the I-10 Highway. The time is 6:15 am and they just crossed Robinson River and they are at mile 458 at the Hanes Pipeline. This is mile 1347 on the ALCAN Highway.

They have stopped for a bite to eat past Dot Lake. It is kind of cloudy again. Jans says everything is going smoothly. Andrew is still with the group. They stopped at the Post Service Station. Mr. Dale Young of Fairbanks took over the station about two or three days ago. It is exactly 208 miles from Fairbanks. They are pulling out to start on the ALCAN to turn off on the Dawson Highway.

They just turned off of the ALCAN Highway onto Dawson Road and it is 170 miles posted on the sign to Dawson City. The time is 7:45 am. They stopped again at mile 23 and 24 and took pictures of the scenery. One picture of the ALCAN Highway. The time is now 8:25 am.

The time is 9:26 am and they are about 58 miles from the ALCAN Highway at the 40 Mile Roadhouse. They stopped there and there are good raspberries. They found four caribou tracks and they are on their way again. The time now is 9:50 and they are at Chicken and have taken four or five pictures of the dredge and at camp. The time is 10:08 am and they just past Bob McComb's place and they are on their way to George King's. They stopped at about mile 67 at a lake and they see good size moose that is starting to get horns. Harrie took a couple of pictures of the spot. The sun is shining and there are flies everywhere. He stopped and took another snapshot of a small gas shovel at the old Franklin, Smith, and Stampy Camp.

The time is 11:12 am. They've stopped to get a bite to eat and they are about a mile from George King's place. They are about 60 miles from Dawson.

The time is 11:49 am and they are at George King's Roadhouse. George begins speaking. He said he came up north in 1910 and he will be 70 years old next year. His birthday is June 8th, 1893. He wants to move to Eagle. Mrs. King is in the background. Harrie says Frank Young will be along in a little while. Harrie tells Mr. King that if he is ever in Fairbanks that he has questions he wants to ask. Harrie begins asking Albert Miller questions at 14:35 into the recording. His full name is Albert Blair Miller and he was born in Seattle, Washington in 1924. He came to Alaska in 1938 via Skagway and over the White Pass and down the river in the old paddle wheeler. Miller went from Dawson to Fairbanks on a cat. The nearest neighbor is Jack and Betsy Wilky. George Gilverson is around the area mining and people named Killiam from Anchorage. George Robinson is also doing work. He took Mr. Zinc from the U.S. Native Service and Welfare to see some of the Native villages. Earl Zinc came in with his boat and all of the children ran to see the boat. Zinc is in charge of Northern Alaska. He is up in Chena building for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Albert Miller says he went to school with Zinc.

The time is 12:14 pm and they are at the immigration station on their way into Canada. He says he is going to take a passenger. Les Millen is the immigration officer. The time is 1:20 pm and they are stopped at a spring on the road into Dawson. They are about 30 miles outside of Dawson. The sun is getting in the west now and there is a slight breeze. The road is being worked on.

Harrie begins interviewing the immigration officer's son. The son is named Wesley Millen Jr. His nickname is Terry. His older sister is 16 and her name is Louise. His other sister is Madeline and his brother is George. Terry is riding in the car from the immigration office to Dawson on the trip. Terry is speaking and saying that they are at the 24 Mile Cabin and they are 24 miles from Dawson City. The cabin has been there for many years ever since 1898. The time is 1:37 pm.

They are now by the Yukon River on their way to Dawson City. Terry says it is noisy.

The highest pass from Dawson to 40 mile highway is 4,000 feet elevation. Further along the way they stopped and got a view of the Yukon River. The time is 3:10 pm and they are in Dawson City sitting on the streets. Terry left and Harrie thinks the others are blue about it. The time is Thursday morning and they were up at 6 am and they went down and had breakfast in Dawson. Andy met a man named Christianson. Christianson is a professional trapper and now has two claims on the Victoria Creek. Christianson is sitting pretty up there. They also saw Black Mike. Black Mike is an old timer and a character around town. Black Mike is in fine shape and 90 years old. Andy says Mike is good for another 10 years. Jans spoke with a man from Billingham, Washington. This was that gentleman's first trip to Dawson. The only trouble is that nothing opens until about noon. Everyone stays up late and sleeps all morning. Harrie says they are going to go and look the country over. The time is 10:05 am.

The time now is 11:25 am. They are on the road out to the early day mines. They have Katy Mcklennan. Katy says they have gone too far already. They want to go to Bonanza Bill Mine. From Bonanza Bill they will be going up to Harrie Lemonds' [?]. Harrie Lemonds may not be home.

They stopped at the Bonanza Bill Mine where they have gold mining and panning for tourists. Katy Mcklennan is making arrangements to go up and see the mine.

They are on the old working of the Bonanza Bill mine and there are a couple slough spots and there is a little mine car, a blacksmith shop, a boiler, steam engines, pumps, a hoist, a bucket. There is a deep well shaft with the windows in. The group is about 12 miles out from Dawson City from one of the largest dredges from the North American continent. It is sunk and semi abandoned. There is a lot of history about the dredge. Katy Mcklennan will describe the dredge. She says she doesn't know any more about the dredge than Harrie Hughes. They are now going out to Glenn Franklin's property. Harrie Lemonds had too much company with him at his place so the group is going to try and catch up with him on the way back.

They are at the Popovich cabin. Katy says that they put a new road through Mike Popovich's claim. Popovich passed away five years ago and he was 86 years old. Katy says Mike did not make a good living while on the claim. She says the old fellas were satisfied with some flour and a slab of bacon. The miners were happy as long as they had enough to buy a bottle to go home with. They went back to their claim and washed out a little more gold for the next bag of flour. She says he was a fine likable fella. Harrie thanks Katy. He says that a few hundred yards back there is a discovery monument from the Canadian government on the Bonanza River. Bob Henderson just passed them. The monument was put up a month ago.

George Clark apparently drove everyone crazy, Katy is saying. She says he puts half a gallon of water in the oil can and he crawls to his cabin. George Clark is 87 years old. Clark had his son with him in the summer. The son wanted to take him outside but George Clark didn't want to go. George Clark is terribly independent. Katy says she would like very much if they could find the time to go visit them. Harrie says they stopped Madam Drumbly's cabin. Katy says Drumbly married Lecrawl. The cabin was

their home while they were mining. Another old gentleman that they took the picture of is now in the old man's home. She doesn't think the person living in the Drumbly cabin is working for Franklin.

Katy is updating the recording by saying they met another miner going home with a pack on his shoulder. That was Sean Trapsnee the one in the old folk's home. Pete Pumpovichka is talking to the group on the side of the road. Pete says he only eats three or four eggs and bacon. He says he drinks a lot of home brewed wine made of raisin. Pete uses Sultana raisins. Pete is Serbian. Pete lives about 1000 feet from where they are. Tommy Welsh has a cabin near. M.L. Cornich lives in a cabin near.

The group is in Dawson again at 39:34 of the recording. Harrie is going to ask Katy about the bridge in Laos Town. Katy says they are between the power plant and the residents. The bridge is one that went across the Klondike from Laos over the Island. The bridge went out in 1912. For a time residents in Laos Town went back and forth from boat and cable car. No one lives over there anymore. The saw mill moved to town and the hotel closed up. The red light district also left. There is a small mine on Laos Town. There are some Natives living there now. They just ran into Frank young and Dolly. Harrie and the group are staying at the Log Cabin Motel and Frank and Dolly are going to visit with them after a bit.

The tape was flipped over and Harrie Hughes is interviewing Frank Young. Frank Young says he had a wonderful trip to Dawson City and it rained a little bit. The roads were fairly good. They started in Fairbanks at about 11:30 and drove to Lasind Field at the mouth of Jack Wade. They camped there for probably 4 or 5 hours and then drove into Dawson which took another 3 or 4 hours and they got there around 12 pm.

Harrie says they wound up near the Klondike River and they found Frank Young in a courtyard well settled. Harrie is interviewing Andy and Jans. Jans believes the cabin was in good shape. It has an old Yukon stove. Andy says he had been in the cabin several times and he believes the cabin has kept up. It has a good roof on it and everything seems to be in pretty good shape inside. They visited the Pioneer Cemetery up against the hill in Dawson. The oldest gravestone was 1896. The years went up to 1926. The cemetery is a small one so there may be other cemeteries in other locations. There are roughly 150 graves in the small space. It looks like the cemetery may be fixed up and preserved. There is a sign over the gate that says "Yukon Order of Pioneers Cemetery." Harrie says he has taken about 6 or 7 photographs of the area.

Harrie says after the cemetery they ran into Mrs. Frank Maybelton. They are two ladies, one from Tok and the other from Seattle. The ladies have arranged for a place to stay in Dawson but they are looking for a place to stay tomorrow and the next night. They also ran into Paul Grinen and Mrs. Grinen at the fairgrounds. They've been out to visit the Franklins at the Grand Franklin Mine.

Several years ago he sent from Jim Hagan from Dawson City. They were looking for an outlaw who came on from a boat. Jim Hagan made the trip to Dawson and stow down landing when the boat came in. Jim Hagan pointed the guy out and they followed him around. The man went into a bar and they followed him in. They told him to be on the boat when the boat left. The bartender told him if that's what they told him, he better follow orders because they mean business. He got on the boat and left the country. A number of years later Jim Hagan met him again and he told Jim Hagan he did the right

thing because he became a good man. Harrie says he knew Jim Hagan when he was Marshall in Nenana. Jim Hagan in his early life was in the logging camps in Tacoma, Washington. Apparently he did some shooting. Jim Hagan always expected to find them but never did but he was always leery. There was another marshal named Stan Nichols. Nichol's wife went out to Florida and found him killed in a motel. The murder was never solved. The police in Florida gave her the gun that he was killed with. He had been picking up hitch hikers. Another man says he heard Stan Nichols was in on dope. Jim Troughton was in trouble too in a Seattle hotel in Pioneer Square. Harrie tells a time when the cab driver was picked up in front of an apartment with a cigar box of marijuana. The fire inspector was there to inspect the building and he found "a cigar box full of weeds." Jim Troughton wasn't killed but he was involved in something. Johnny Swaggler took a couple Russians prisoner. Harrie says he got the real story from Johnny Swaggler. Frank Weisman shot a man who climbed the fence to look into the park. They sent Frank Weisman out because he did that.

The group is standing in the streets of Dawson in front of the Keno across from the Dawson Arts and Craft shop Nugget Jewelry. He is talking to a friend from Eagle, named [?]. He came to Dawson for the celebration and has been a member of the Pioneers of Alaska for 5 years. He is retired in Eagle. The man was born in Hungaria in Northshine. He has no family in Alaska. He has 12 youngsters with him. The time is 8:40 pm and they are getting ready to see some of the shows.

Harrie says that this evening they spent the evening at the community hall and they had bingo and blackjack. Then there were skits called the "Shooting of Dan Mcgrue." At about midnight he went to bed. It is August 17th, 1962 in Dawson City. He got up early at 7 am and went to go get coffee. At about 9 am he met Frank Young and Dolly Young and they had a cup of coffee. They went up and called on Mr. Fry, secretary of the Yukon Order of Pioneers and gave him the tape with the stories of Billy Gulcher and Bill Sheridan. Frank Young and Harrie settled up their dues with the Yukon Order. They will be meeting around 11:30-12 at the Yukon Order of Pioneers Hall to get ready for trade and the ceremony. The time now is 9:55 am. Harrie just took a picture of a little building where Frank Young says his father had a little store in. In later years it was a sheet metal shop. It looks like they made hardware and horseshoes.

At 58:55 Harrie just went down to the recreation grounds next to the government headquarters and took a picture of the old steam locomotives and an old steam tractor. He also took pictures of the ball field. He also took a picture of the Sunset Home. It is a low rent project with about 12-13 rooms in the building. It was built to help take care of some of the old pioneers. It is similar to the Birch Park low earning area in Fairbanks. Most of the pensioners who are drawing 85-100 dollars a month can live there. Harrie took a picture of the pioneers' home where they take care of the welfare cases in Dawson City. One or two of the old timers he had met before and there is a big guy named Dan who worked the Nenana and Tanana boats on the rivers on the way to Alaska.

The time is 11:05 am and Harrie spent time visiting the Pioneer Home now he is visiting with Katy McLerran and Teddy Watkins. Teddy says hello to John Hajdukovic. The time is 11:40 am and Harrie has taken exposures around the Yukon Order of Pioneers Hall.

The parade just ended and the parade started at about 12:15 pm. Harrie says they marched through town and over to the fairground. The Canadian Mounted Police Band is playing music in the background at 1:03:00 of the recording.

Harrie just got to the Yukon Hall and he has the Royal Canadian Air Force Band playing inside the hall. Frank Young is present along with W.B. Troughburg. They are headed for the airport hoping that they meet somebody coming in from Fairbanks. They are in Dawson airport and Bob Steele showed up on the plane.

The time is now 4:40 pm and the Canadian Pacific Airlines came in with some passengers including the governor and his wife. President Troughburg, the Yukon Order of Pioneers. The Mayor of Dawson City and his wife also showed up on the airplane.

The time is 6:35 and the mayor of Dawson is going to escort the governor of Alaska into town. The recording ends.