

Call Number: 02-00-62-08 CD 2

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 begins with Harrie saying that at 8:00 pm he heard the dedication of the old theatre in Dawson. Governor Egan of Alaska was the principle speaker. Andy says Egan made a good speech and he was applauded a lot. They were going to see the show at the Foxy. Andy says it has been really hot and a wonderful day. Andy says the parade went all through the afternoon. A lot of people from alpine areas came in for the Discover Day Celebration. Harrie says they are going to wonder around to community hall.

It is Saturday morning and the time is 10:30 am. Andy and Jans are going to stop at an early day store. This morning they met George Gilverson and Bob Steele, Black Mike. They took a look around the old time grocery store and museum. He took another photograph of the old time theater where Foxy played last night.

They just stopped and took a picture of an old pioneer building and also Jack Butterworth and Andy Wicken shaking hands. They are on 2nd St. and Harrie doesn't know the other street.

Harrie just stopped at Cully's Store. The owner owns the property where Frank Young lived as a boy and the owner purchased the property from the estate of West. West operated the property for many years. The time is 11:20 am and they are going to move down the road some ways.

Harrie stopped to have the tire fixed for a second time. There was a nail in the tire. He is in the Franklin garage having his tire fixed. Afterwards, a Mrs. Arlene Darling ran into Harrie Hughes. Mrs. Darling lives in Fairbanks on Peger Rd. Harrie went down and visited the museum and the bank down and then he had a cup of coffee with Andy Wicken. Now he is with Mr. Cobo visiting. Mr. Cobo says his daughter and her husband visited her. Their name is Schwartz. The policeman and his wife also went to visit. The policeman's wife used to be Ms. Valentine. Mr. Cobo was in the parade yesterday. Cobo was in on the big truck. There were men there that Cobo hadn't seen for many years.

The time is 2:45 pm and Harrie is going to visit some more old timers. Mrs. Enis Taylor asked to take Mr. and Mrs. George Black to visit the old folks home and the hospital and over to sunset home. He took them around to visit these people then he picked up Bob Steele and took him to visit the old pioneers. Bob Steele has spent 36 years in the Eagle district and spent some of his early years in the Dawson area. He is getting ready to head back to Fairbanks and probably do a side trip to Eagle.

Harrie says they all turned in Saturday night quite early. It is 5:15 am and they are sitting in front of the restaurant waiting for them to open up. It rained Saturday night. Harrie says they just had lunch in the Monte Carlo Café. The breakfast was good. He says they are ready to go now.

At 10:25 of the recording Harrie says that he went to leave and wound up with two flat tires. He is at the Monte Carlo talking to the manager and owner. Her name is Gladys Pennington and her husband is Noel Pennington. Gladys says they have had a good summer and they have enjoyed the Foxy crowd. Mr. McCallister of the Log Cabin Motel of Dawson City. He got up at about 7 am and McCallister helped him put air in the tire so he could drive to get them fixed. The time is 7:40 am.

The time is 10:30 am Dawson City time. They are on the ferry crossing the river. Everybody is happy. They had three flat tires to start off. They are on top of a mountain almost to a summit and they are at 23 mile post.

The time is 12:00 pm Dawson time. Harrie met Oscar Wilson and Rachel Houston from Nebraska. This is Oscar's first time in the area and Oscar said he didn't think there would be so much woods. Harrie introduces Andrew Wicken and Jans Walzene. Rachel Houston says she didn't realize it was nothing but trees, mountains, hills, and water. She said they saw a few moose but that is about all. Oscar says they saw three grizzlies in Hanes Junction.

The time is 1:30 pm Dawson time. They are at the Canadian customs office at the border. They are on the road down to Eagle. Les Noen is the customs officer and his daughter is Louise Noen. They are on their way again.

The time is 1:55 pm Fairbanks time. They have come down off of the hill from the border station and they are at George King's Boundary Lodge and there is a crown that says "The King's Place." The drudge they saw on the creek below is located on Walker's Fork. The drudge is abandoned. They have just turned off of the highway from Chicken to Eagle. It is 64 miles from this junction in the road. The time is 2:15 pm.

The time is 3:52 pm and they are at a spring on Eagle Road about halfway between Eagle and George King's Road house. Harrie took a couple pictures of the canyons. It is now 5:30 pm and they are in Eagle, Alaska. He took a picture of Bishop Rose monument. The mileage on his speedometer is 35559. It is Sunday evening on the banks of the Yukon on a return from Dawson City.

It is August the 19th, 1962 and this is the second part of the trip in Eagle City. The time is 6:05 Fairbanks time. He has in the car who is a member of the Pioneers Club in Fairbanks, Andrew Gaiech from Hungaria (Nootshide). Gaiech is going to take them up to the cemetery in Eagle City. Gaiech discusses the first courthouse where Wickersham held court in Alaska. Eagle was the oldest city in the area.

They just visited the old military cemetery in Eagle. There isn't much history available of the cemetery at the moment. They just stopped and took a couple photographs. There is a lot of historical equipment in a loft in a building they are visiting. They also took a snapshot of another old building that may have been an old hospital. There is a rainbow across the Yukon River.

They are now at Eagle Air Base at 22:55 of the recording. Gaeich is discussing the DEW Lines which is still being maintained. Planes are still landing on the field.

They stopped at the old Native cemetery where the Indians are buried. There is a beautiful rainbow shining down on the cemetery on the banks of the Yukon. It is August the 19th, at 7:00 pm. They just went down and visited the Native village of Eagle. It is located about 3 miles upstream from the Yukon. The Yukon flows almost due north. The village is located less than 5 miles from the Canadian border. There are about 30 natives down there. The women were out gathering berries. They have a school, church and powerhouse for electricity. They are living in the old sod building with log walls. There were people rebuilding the buildings. This is one of the oldest towns in Alaska. It was probably the first military base as far as we know. He took several photographs of the Native village. The gentleman let them stay in the cabin for the night.

After all they didn't go to bed. They went down to visit George McGregor born in Seneca, Missouri. He came to Alaska in 1917. He settled in Eagle in 1957. He has mined practically his whole life in Alaska. He is 75 next November. He had some ground that Patty is working on right now. Dean Patty. He is working on the two creeks wood chopping (Patty). George trapped in the winter and mined during the summer. George says he fared pretty well because there is lots of wood around. George says the Indians are wood cutters. George McGregor is just watching the world go by. He is a member of Igloo Four Pioneers of Alaska, Fairbanks. HE says there is game but no trouble. He says he does his own gardening. He says he doesn't know Norman Hadley when asked by Harrie Hughes. Harrie says Norman Hadley is getting close to 80. Harrie says he knows of a man named Van Bibber from Dawson. Harrie starts discussing the stories shared by Van Bibber. Harrie says he should have had the recorder but Van Bibber talked for two hours. George says he doesn't have any exciting stories or anything out of the ordinary. George says there are about 15-20 white people in the area. George says there are about 40-50 Natives near the village. George says he goes into town twice a week. George says the Natives a few dog teams. George says he got rid of the dogs before he moved to Eagle. George says he has enjoyed every year he has spent in Alaska. George was in the Army. He says he went down to Skagway and the Canadian Troopers were in. The Safia was overfilled with soldiers and it hit a rock on the way down to Seattle. Harrie asks if George knows anyone from Circle. Harrie mentions George Parker but George doesn't know him. George mentions an old man named Sted. George believes Sted went out to some home in Tacoma. Harrie mentions a young fella named Wilson who lives a few blocks from the road house. Wilson is a member of the Pioneers. George mentions Earl Stout. Harrie mentions Joe Almer and George knows who that is. George says a lot of the old timers left a lot of money behind when they stopped mining.

At 39:30 of the recording Harrie says that is the end of this portion of the recording. He says they took off the next morning at 9:40 am and he recorded that portion of the trip on another tape. The recording ends.