

Call Number: 02-00-62-09

Story of Tury Anderson from September 1, 1962, No Location

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Notes: Original on 5 inch reel, copy on CD

The recording starts with Harry Hughes declaring that it is September 1st, 1962 in Fairbanks, Alaska. He is recording in memorandum of a trip yesterday to a mine. In the room with Harry is Tury Anderson, the owner of a one man mining operation. Tury came into Alaska was quite a number of years ago. At the moment he has been in Alaska continuous for about 22-23 years. Tury has been mining ever since he's been in the country. Tury did some prospecting Wyoming but no actual mining. He came into the Fairbanks area in 1938-1939. Harry says he remembers working night in the Nordale and possibly met Tury when he first moved to Fairbanks. Tury says that is very possible. Tury says he didn't have enough money to stay in the Nordale Hotel anyway. Harry says a number of people have asked him why he doesn't get a hold of Tury. Harry says the other day he made arrangements to take a news writer out and Jimmy McDonald, Harry, and Tury went on a trip to the mine. Tury says the ground he is mining lies on the divide between Floom Creek and Fox Gulch. That ground was originally staked by some of the first hard rock miners that came into the area which was in 1910. Gus Sharp was the one who first staked the land. Gus passed away Tury believes in 1940. Gus staked the ground 1910. He had a partner named Freeman. Both of the men are mentioned in various USGS bulletins. The men religiously worked don the property from 1910 until 1927. In those days they were looking for high grade gold ore which all of the prospectors were at that time. What they actually had was a silver lead deposit with a small amount of gold. In those days the silver and lead was worth 30 cents and 4 cents respectively. The ground was never patented. It laid there and was forgotten about. Tury was mining on Pedro plaster mining at the mouth of Flume Creek and used to pick up Galena. A man from the old territorial department of mines came out and mentioned the good prospect on top of the hill. Tury started looking for the prospect and he put in long time hunting. He located and took an act up there and did some digging. As much as he was plaster mining he wasn't interested in hard rock at the time. He did some sniping around and finally he got Fred Wakawitz to go with him. Fred was an old time well known hard rock prospector. Fred said by all means do some work. Tury said he's going to move up to Porcupine Creek in the Circle district and do plaster mining. In the meantime he told Fred if he kept up the work on the mine prospecting he'd go in half with him and Fred agreed. They have been partners ever since. Now they have three veins exposed and Fred did all of that with a hand pick and wheel barrel. Tury says they are in a position now where they need a mill. Tury says the ball mill is the one unit they saw yesterday. It is a hard edged conical mill. At one time the mill sat on Cushman St. the mill was brought in by the USGS for testing ores in the Fairbanks district. It was set up and never used maybe a time or two. They gave up on the project and gave it to the UAF. The UAF installed the mill for educational purposes for the school of mines. It was too large a mill for what they wanted. The mill is

commercial type. Now UAF has started to install a small mill with more modern equipment and strictly ore testing laboratory. When they disposed of the mill Fred brought it and got other pieces from all over the country. It is a gravity concentration plant. Due to the fact of high freight rates you cannot ship ore out of the country. The only answer to that is put in a concentrating plant and eliminate rock and residue and ship the mineral. Tury says he shipped 50 tons of raw ore. The veins average about 5 feet in width each and accumulated 50 tons and put it in steel drums and shipped it to the American Smelting and Refining Company at Selby California for processing. This was done to get a volume estimate on the project rather than make money. The freight rate for shipping ate up all the profit. Someday Tury says people will see large modern milling equipment that will develop hard rock projects and there will be smelting in the country. Tury says they have to haul their ore from the mine about 1 mile. The reason is they had to have water for the mill. They have the mill built on two levels. The upper level they bring the ore in and anything that falls through will fit the crusher they are using. It then goes into the fine ore bin and from there there's a screen that screens out the fines before it gets to the crusher. Tury says they were using water to feed the ore and normally you use a mechanical feeder. The water feed system works really good. Tury discusses close circuit grinding. There is a concentrating table where more water is added and the action of the table is gravity concentration. There is barreling and they are ready for shipment to the smelter. Alaska Highway has helped, the trucks coming up with have more for the backhaul. They ship to Montana which is the closest smelting to Fairbanks. There is another company, America Smelting in Tacoma, Washington but they don't have a lead stack. The east Helena plant in Montana is the ideal one to use. The operation is pretty much done alone by Tury. Next year he has hopes of running the mill with two shifts. There is a little international diesel engine and generator that had to be rebuilt. The electric motor for each unit was brought from the University and they were old D.C. motors. DC power is the ideal power for compact unit anyway and that is why they use it on the railroads. It has the lugging power.

At 18:10 into the recording Tury is discussing how the DC plant produces cheap power. They run on about a gallon and a half of diesel oil an hour. He pumps water right out of the creek. The operation doesn't take a large volume of water. They are running about 20-25 gallons a minute. Tury says that there is a small content of gold but all they are doing is concentrating the gold, silver, and lead as a unit. They don't worry about taking a little bit of gold out. The smelter gets 100% recovery. The lead content is about 36% lead in the concentrate. They could cut it down to have a real clean product but there is a point where you have to decide how much money to make. Tury says they are trying to get a product which will pay its expenses and show a little profit. Tury says he does see room for modifications. They want to put in a sand pump. He also wants to put in a heat exchange on the engine there.

At 22:45 of the recording Tury says other minerals that could be mined in the same manner include every known mineral in the Fairbanks area. Tury says stamp mills have reached the point where they are obsolete on the modern milling techniques. They have been replaced by jigs, flotation units, ball mills. Tury says they are working on at the present time to get larger custom milling plant set up here. He says he is a dedicated miner. Mining is all he wants to do. He says there is a new generation of people doing anything about mining. He wants to see something get started. The most helpful thing he could have is cheap freight rates. Tury believes a smelter would encourage more mining but you have to

remember which came first the hen or the egg. There's no one building a smelter until they see the ore developed. Between Fairbanks, Yukon, Dawson and parts of Canada Tury believes there will be room for smoldering when ore gets developed. Harry mentions Earl Pilgrim of the antimony mine at Stampede Alaska as being a friend of Tury's. Tury says he is working on antimony ore. At the present time Earl is milling and he just got his mill into operation within the past week. He's getting his antimony concentrates for shipment to Japan. Mr. Pilgrim built his own air strip and they can land good sized airplanes. The flight transportation has helped pilgrim and will help others. Tury says as far as he knows he is the only one in the Fairbanks area. Pilgrim is down in McKinley Park area or Stampede. Ed Tucson for Fort Yukon has a small mill installed and is waiting for economic conditions. Ed has seen into the future and he has his little mining outfit ready to go. Tury is not far from the old Gustafson mine. Tury is on west side of Pedro Dome and Gustafson is on the east side of Pedro hill. The last stamp mill to run in Alaska country was the Cleary Hill Stamp Mill. It was an enormous plant. They used to work quite a bunch of men in there. Harry says their average crew was 7-9 men. Tury says Frank Cruise was a bookkeeper and he passed away. Frank said they had a crew as high as 20. Tury says they are on one of the greatest plaster areas in the country. There has been very little done to actually go in and get the plaster. The deepest hole was the old Cleary Hill mine and that were only 300 feet. That thing produced a little over \$3 million dollars. Gus Carpus is mentioned by Harry. Tury says there are a few old mills around the country but they haven't been operated since the war or before. Harry says there is room for lots of development in Alaska. Alaska is in its virgin state. Harry would like to say that the average age of people doing these things is old. Young people are not taking part in the things Tury are doing like they should. Tury says the young people don't seem to be interested in developing anything basic. They want to work on a government project or work for the Army. To actually go up in the hill is hard work. Harry says it takes an adventurer which is actually a pioneer. Tury is 59 years old. They agree that many people who are involved in the business are over 50. Harry says there is an Eskimo family mining with old technology. The time is 11:31 am in Fairbanks. Harry thanks Tury. Harry asks Tury if the Pioneers of Alaska could use the recording for the people at the University of Alaska. Tury tells Harry to feel free to use the recording. Tury wants to thank Harry for his interest. Harry says he brought Judy from the News-Miner and there should be a write up in the newspaper next week. Jimmy McDonald, a member of the pioneers of Alaska, was along for the mining tour. The recording ends.