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Special meeting of Tanana-Yukon Historical Society at Torgersons, November 1963

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The recording begins with Harry Hughes saying that the day is October 6th, 1963 in Fairbanks, Alaska. He says he has a visitor in the house today from the Safe and Lock Service in Seattle. The man's name is Roy Solstrum. Roy was born in Rolville, Minnesota. Roy is 52. Roy has spent the last 20 something years in Washington. Harry says he has let Roy listen to a couple tapes and shown him a couple pictures to let him know the kind of efforts Harry is doing in order to preserve history. Roy says Cannonball Whitaker will be in Fairbanks in a few days probably to work on a bank down in Toke. Harry says he is going to terminate the recording and Ol' Beaty [Harry's bird] is making a racket. The Recording ends.

At 1:20 of the recording the recording resumes. Harry Hughes says that the meeting is of the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society. The current time is 8:02 on October, 2nd 1963. There is a roll call of who is present and who is absent. Vice President Harry Hughes is present. Treasurer [unintelligible] is absent. Secretary Sal [inaudible] is present. Mrs. Cassidy is present. Jessica Hines is present. Frank young present. Gene Cassidy is present. Earvin Reed. Fols Baker [?] is absent. Harry says that with no officer absent they can conduct the meeting for the purpose of reorganizing the public gathering. If there are any correspondence before they get into the agenda Harry says that he would like to announce the resignation and announce a new party for the officers. No one has any correspondence for sharing so Harry announces his resignation. HE appreciates all of the support and he will continue to work for the organization. HE says he would like to nominate Florence Mansville for vice president. The motion is seconded. Everyone is in favor. The motion is carried. Harry tells the Tanana-Tukon Historical Society essentially that he will be busy preparing for the Pioneers of Alaska Conference in January so he thinks it is only fair to let other people be a part of things. He says Florence is a charter member and several other here should have an opportunity to take part in the Society.

At 5:12 of the recording Harry discusses the last previous meeting that held and how officers were nominated. A female asks Harry if he wants her to announce the committee appointments. Correspondent Secretary Madeline [?], Early Reed is the chairman of programs; Harry Hughes and Frank Young are part of the recordings. Eleanor Reed is chairman of publicity and Frank Young and Al Davies are also members. Earvin Reed is the chairman of the interrogation committee. Crystal Wagner is the chairman of the Membership Committee. Alma Matlock is the chairman of the refreshments committee. Frank Young is chairman of the Historical Names committee. Frank Young is Chairman of the Picture Adaptation Committee.

At 6:33 of the recording Harry Hughes says that all the names that were just announced were nominations for the coming year. A man interjects and says that the names were appointed by the

president. Harry asks if there is any committee that would like to make a report. There is a long silence. Harry asks Frank and Frank says no and then something inaudible. There is a long silence as Harry asks the group if anyone else has any submissions. Harry says the purpose of the meeting is to reorganize the officers and not have it done in public. A man says he wants to suggest that instead of having a public meeting next time they have a business meeting. He says at that meeting he would like to give an introduction to musk oxen and buffalo being introduced into the country. The group contemplates when to have the meeting and if the public will be invited. A woman says that the committee has to get the directors and the trustees at the meeting. A list of membership is mentioned and there is not a list so a man asks someone to assist Mrs. Duffey is getting the membership list in order. A man says that the committee needs to know all the members that are paid up and that are not paid up at the next meeting. One of the committee members asks if the people who have not paid within the last two or three years should be dropped from the society? Another man says they should discuss these things because before the president abandons the society he should have an opportunity to say yes or no. Harry Hughes asks if the meeting can be postponed until the 31st. A man says that the members that have not paid their dues should be reminded for the next meeting because if the society is going to be successful they are going to need moral and financial support. One of the female committee members argues that there have been big business meetings and people who aren't members have been present at those meetings.

At 13:20 of the recording one of the male committee members says he would like to make the suggestion that the Society is not making it interesting enough at the meetings for the listeners that he thinks are all potential members. He says the Society has a bunch of tapes and he thinks people would attend the meetings to hear them besides the speaker speaking. He says he wants badly to hear Ed Clausmen's [?] talk. He says he would give his right eye to hear the speech again. He suggests having the guest speak and then announce that they are going to play speech from previous speakers that maybe some of the guests weren't able to hear. Harry asks the man if he would like to make a motion of that and the man says he was just saying. The others say that that decision is up to the Program Committee. A new person shows up and somebody says "Hey George" and he is told to come in. The recording stops and then begins with people discussing nominating Bill Cashen. The relationship between the Society's treasury and banks is discussed. One of the men mentions having a more central meeting place for the meeting. Harry mentions asking the Chamber of Commerce for funding to move the meeting to a new place. A \$10 reservation fee is discussed vigorously. The use of 22 cent cups is discussed and it is believed that the Chamber of Commerce has cups. Harry Hughes calls for Baker and asks him if he's hiding or if he has any ideas. Baker says this is very good and he has been sitting all evening. Harry says he would like an expression from everybody. Baker tells the group to stay where they're at for the meetings and one of the committee members says Society can stay where they are at but the point is to get more blood and spirit into the organization.

At 26:40 of the recording one of the committee members asks if Frank Young has any information for the group. Frank says not at the present time then mentions something inaudible involving \$1300 dollars in prizes. Frank says everything seems to be going along on the schedule. Frank says that he doesn't want to get out of order but he mentions how in the minutes for the meeting there is the point

of inviting members of the society and asking for dues. Frank says the society should still invite people but they should keep out the part about asking for dues because sometimes people resent that type of behavior. The name Roy Smith is mentioned as a man who has been giving notices. A man says that he deposited \$705 for Adolf Stock for 20 certificates. He says any person from the Society who will work a book should go to Paul Grimen's [?] office downtown and he will sign a book out to them. Ruth Barrick [?] says she is going to work out in Seattle. The president suggests having a place where people can donate money at the meeting and one of the committee members says that if they did that they'd be putting the pedal on all the meeting attendees. A man interjects and says he started all of this because when he used to go to the meetings at Birch Park he would help set up chairs and every time there seemed like there would be less chairs and less chairs. One of the members says the Society has to get away from Birch Park and the man who helped set up chairs says that Birch Park pleases him 100%. There is some reminiscing about how the meetings used to go and there is a suggestion that there should not be a vacation during the summer time, the group should meet more consistently instead. Apparently the president who recently abandoned the group put a notice in the paper instead of telling any of the Society members. There was a time when the Chamber of Commerce would ask why the Society doesn't do certain things and the Chamber had hired a promoter to come to Fairbanks and they paid him \$1,000 a month and all he did was take the money and leave. The man telling the story says that they should have just offered some of the old timers \$5 or \$10 bucks and you'd be surprised at what they would do. Jack Cook used to sit around at the airport and get paid \$1 an hour to greet tourists. The man who helped move chairs at the Birch Park relays his own take on hiring engineers in Fairbanks. There is a desire for the Society to get into the limelight again. The motion to meet at the Chamber of Commerce is seconded.

At 39:20 of the recording the man who helped move chairs proposes an amendment to move the meeting to Birch Park. Arctic Bowl is mentioned as a possible meeting place and the words "Arctic Bowl" are repeated in succession with an excited whisper by many of the committee members. The Log Cabin, Birch Park, and Arctic Bowl are all possible locations for the next Society Meeting.

The recording stops at 43:18 and resumes at 43:22 with Harry Hughes announcing that the day is November 7th, 1963 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Hughes says he is recording for Igloo Four Pioneers of Alaska. In the room with Harry is a gentleman who has worked with the FE Company [Smelting refining company] and has been in Fairbanks for a number of years. The man's name is Otto Menzel [?] and his original intention to come to Alaska was taking a boat from Dawson in a line to go halibut fishing in 1924. He was disappointed with the fishing so he moved from Dawson to Seward where he heard about the gold mining. He worked on Cook's Inlet in 1927. He said he moved to Fairbanks and worked with the Fairbanks Mining Company. Otto was born in Germany in 1892. The city where he was born disappeared during the Second World War. He was born close to the capital of Saxson [?]. He went to school in Germany. Before he left Germany he [inaudible]. He discusses being on a crew ship and it was near Christmas time. Otto tells a story that is fairly inaudible because of his close vicinity to the microphone. Otto's story involves him being brought up to the deck and him waking up on his back on the deck. Otto says finally after coming to Fairbanks [inaudible] and he mentions the pay and how there were no taxes. Otto says he lives 16 miles out on the state highway in a cabin during the summertime

when he works for the Chatanika Power Company. Harry asks Otto about the old camp and Otto says "No, it's a Wannigan." According to Otto the old camp was a bunk house [inaudible]. A man is discusses who used to be a cook for the Alaska Road Commission. Otto discusses a man being out \$5,000 cash to pay expenses at 54:30 of the recording.

Harry tells Otto to step back from the microphone and the recording becomes very clear at 56:00 of the recording. Otto says that in the winter of 1926 and 1927 he hired out to the Nome Big [?] Company. They were going to cut some wood. They cut the wood and towards the end he helped the electrical engineers extend the power line. He discusses the saws that were being used to cut the wood. He also discusses the horses used to do the job. There was bear with two cubs and one of his co-workers shot the bear and they got a hold of the cubs. The Dutch master took the cubs back to the camp. They put the bear cubs in chicken wire. The Dutch master's wife came home one day and heard commotion upstairs and pounded the ceiling and the commotion still went on. The bear cubs had gotten out. One of the bear cubs got scared because there were huskies howling and so he ran up to a cabin and that was the noise made. Otto got home that night after work and he was staying with the Dutch master and when he got home he found the bear sleeping in his bed.

Harry asks Otto if he wants to hear the recording back at 1:03:40 of the recording.

The recording resumes and Harry says Otto just heard his recording played back and Harry says he is going to ask him about the time he was on the Sheep Creek when the 490 ton dredge was moved with some cats. He says he had a \$10,000 house down the road. A young man was going to get a government loan. Otto told him that he'd rent the house for the man for so much a month. The young man had a wife and the two got separated. It hit the man so hard that one day [he used to lock her out of the house] a neighbor called and told Otto that the temperature is 25 below and there is no smoke coming out of the house. Otto told the neighbor where to find the key and they opened the door and everything had frozen up. Otto told them that in two weeks his mining camp was closing down and he would be in town. Pretty soon some of the family's family asked Otto what had become of the family and he said he wanted to know himself what happened to them. The man had robbed Otto and flew out of Anchorage.

At 1:09:05 of the recording Harry Hughes makes an appearance and says he would like to thank Otto for sharing his experiences. Otto isn't a member of Igloo four but Harry says he is going to have to get Adolf Stock to get Otto's application in. The recording stops.

The recording resumes at 1:09:38 and Harry Hughes is announcing that the day is Friday November, 18th, 1963 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Last night November the 7th the Pioneer Memorial Park three board members: Paul Graham, Jim Cassidy and Harry Hughes met with the Chamber of Commerce Centennial Committee. That included the President of the Chamber of Commerce and the manager. There were representatives from Igloo Four and Auxiliary Eight and the press was present. Due to lack of sufficient quorum the Pioneer of Alaska board had to postpone the meeting. Harry Hughes says this memorandum is just a reminder of the inactivity caused by people who do not assume their responsibilities. Harry Hughes says they want their name in it and they want a part of it but they are

never there to do any work. The recording ends with Harry Hughes saying he wanted to put his memorandum on the tape.