

Call number: 02-00-62-20 CD 2

Brade Knudson Interview

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

Date(s) of creation of summary: 4/15/2013

The first 18:07 of the recording is a duplicate of 02-00-62-03. After the duplicate the recording begins with Harry Hughes saying the time is 10:10 in the morning and they are sitting out for a visit to John Hajdukovich. In the car are Steve Boynich and Jimmy McDonald and Frank Young and Harry Hughes. The day is September the 11th, Tuesday morning. The day is cloudy. They are on their way right now. Jim had to go and report to his boss before he left. They stopped on Cushman St. to get gas. They are driving a Cadillac. The mileage on the Cadillac is 14,711. The time is 10:18 am. A man is pointing out a thing with a 60 foot top. The federal government put the road in. The structure goes out to the new city delta. They are discussing the highway. There is someone living on the newly paved road. The time now is 11:16 and they have passed Dr. Weston's farm on the Richardson Highway and they are entering the Harding Lake area. Steve is getting a little bit hungry. Harry says Jimmy doesn't need much to eat. They are passing the Lake Harding Road right now. A man is telling a story about years ago when he went hunting with a man named Barney Stunkel [?] and Imersh[?]. Back then it was Salchaket Lake. They took a turn into the lake and way down in there they saw a big bull moose. They decided the wind was blowing for most of the moose and they'd wait for the moose to get closer. After a few hours of watching all they heard was bang. They went up there and a Native by the name of Johnny Salmon shot the moose. They all blamed one another after that. They never got any moose but they stuck around for a couple days. There were several Indians in there. They are now crossing Tripp Taylor's new Texaco gas station by the side of Lake Harding.

At 24:22 of the recording Harry Hughes is describing a spot that has a beautiful view of the mountains. Steve says that one night he had a notion that he would build a night club so he could have a view of the Alaskan Range. They are rolling right along. They are in the neighborhood of Silver Fox about 49 miles from Fairbanks. Jimmy was talking about someone building a road house. Jimmy says he doesn't know. Frank says he doesn't know. Slim still takes hunting and fishing parties across the Tanana River to the Clearwater. The man's name is Slim Merriman. He had a nice roadhouse that burnt up. This is the second or third time the roadhouse has burnt up. In the background one of the men is saying when he first got to the country it was a fellow by the name of Taylor. Old Taylor and his wife. Merriman is now living down in the gravel pit beyond where the old roadhouse were. They are getting right to the old roadhouse now. Harry says he used to see a lot of game before the highway was put in. He ran into fox and moose and all kinds of game including wolves. They are at the entrance of the old Silver Fox Roadhouse. There used to be a fox farm in the early days of the neighborhood and they turned the foxes loose. When they were building the road they took out all the gravel where Merriman lives. The time is 11:26 and the sun is peeking out. All of the trees are yellow golden colors although the frost has hit them. Right at the moment they are passing the miles post 312 from Valdez. This is the Richardson

highway to about where big timber is and Glenn Allen highway to Valdez Rd. They are discussing Ingstrom and mining. Ingstrom is married to Jack Singleton's daughter. Jack Singleton used to have the roadhouse and Lakenine [?] creek and Healy. Those people are all gone from the country. Frank says he was going over to Chitna with Bobby Sheldon and Tom Gibson and they had 4 or 5 model T fords. Around 4 or 5 in the evening one of the guys was going through a mud hole and he ripped out a crown gear and differential. Sheldon got them busy getting the fire going and all hands helped the car out. It was about 3 or 4 in the morning when they got to Jimmy's. Jimmy was walking around and he had an old dog named "Laddy". Sheldon greeted Jimmy and told Jimmy that they were hungry. Jimmy says he is cooking hot cakes. The coffee pot was a huge pot and he had it full of ground that was about an inch of coffee on the top of it. Jimmy stood there turning hot cakes and he looked down at the dog and tell Laddy to get away. He'd pat the dog on the backside with the wooden paddle he was using to turn the hotcakes.

At 32:00 of the recording Harry says they are at the fish growing station where they grow trout. Harry says the pit is closed to fishing. Harry says the stream used to go across the road. Harry says they can't raise grayling because they don't have enough knowledge. They are a peculiar fish. Frank says that a man was telling him at Shaw Creek that if you up two miles there is still water and if you have a boat you can get all the grayling you want. The man was fishing for grayling last Sunday. Harry says they are passing mile 307 and the mile post is from Valdez. They are passing part of the highway where a man got the patent to the wrong land at Birch Lake and had the highway blocked off for a few hours to claim his land. Jimmy Chism is his name and he was the original homesteader of the land. The government gave him the wrong patent to the land and Harry says he doesn't know how they settled that but he thinks the government made a new deed. They are passing the entrance to Lost Lake the Boy Scout camp. Now they are down where there was a muddy spot and there were always moose. This is the south end of Birch Lake. This used to be a bog and Harry says they used to have to pull people out with a team of horses.

The recording stops at resumes at 35:15 and a man is discussing several hunters going into an area and never coming out again. There was one time they were going to put a pole line through there and a man worked for the telephone company. He doesn't remember his name but he was in there scouting the land and they haven't seen the guy since. There have been several in the early days how have gotten lost in that area. It is a hell of a jungle in their back around the lake at Lost Lake. Tenderfoot is further up about 8 or 9 miles from where they are currently at. Harry says 7 or 8 miles to go until Dennis' roadhouse. A man says he is not hungry. A man suggests that they stop over the hill. Harry says during the building of the road there was a man who moved a trailer out there and opened up a liquor store. He lasted about four months and was the only one that had to sign the application. He was going to sell liquor to the workers on the road and keep them drunk and he didn't last long on it. Harry says something happened to the road. When the road was built it was just like a table. The road is buckling. There is a little canyon where they would find moose not too many years back. It is a winding canyon that comes out right where the old road commission used to be. The portion of the road that they are on is one the list for road improvement they are starting to work on big delta towards Fairbanks and on. They are going to try and work on the Big Delta Bridge and the road they are on has been

surveyed to straighten out. They are at the location of the old road commission camp where they used to keep all the equipment when they were working on the road. It was just by mile post 300. At the next curve someone hit a moose and they just rolled it over the hill and you smell it for six months.

At 40:00 they have stopped to have a bite to eat of Steve's lunch that he brought along and they are looking at the Tanana River that main channel has swung over the bank this year. One of the men is saying Harry Owens was drunk at the Hobo Smith Saloon. This morning he got up and went up on a hill behind the roadhouse and the newspaper was used to toilet tissue. This time there was no newspaper so Harry Owens went up there drunk and he went back and asked Harry Owens what was the matter and Harry Owens asked where the newspapers were. Harry Owens goes to work at the bunkhouse and gets all the newspaper and set [?] on fire. By the time he got back to the roadhouse everything was up in smoke. Harry asks the man since he was talking about Hobo Smith if he remembers Hobo Bill. The man says no. Harry says Hobo Bill used to be up and down the railroad and used to trap a little and hunt a little. One of the men asks Steve about Harry Owens. The man asks Steve if Harry wrote the [?] sniper and Steve says yes. Steve says Harry was pretty good and good at joking. Harry would tell good stories that make you laugh. Steve says in that part of the country there are hard names. Harry could tell a story.

At 43:50 of the recording one of the men begins discussing a marshal that started a village had a Koyukuk sniper in there. He had a song that went like this: "On his empty guts he froze his nuts crossing the high divide..." and all that kind of stuff. The man says he has no idea how the book got approved for publication. Bob Marshall is discussed. Steve says he never met Bob Marshall because he left Wiseman a year before Bob Marshall got there. Marshall stayed in Wiseman one year. They told Marshall about Steve so when Marshall came out there was a Japanese man who had a huge family of 10-12. The Japanese person was a young fella and came with Marshall to Steve's. Marshall came through and said he would like to see Steve Bujovich. One morning Marshall walks in and asks where Steve is. He said his name is Bob Marshall and he has wanted to meet Steve. [Much of the story is inaudible]. Marshall was walking downtown with a girl. Harry says he knew him. A man asks Jimmy if he read the book. The man says he had a way of expressing himself as far as having sex with natives up north. Marshall had it in English so you could read it. Marshall was smart enough to write it so the censor board passed it.

At 47:10 Harry says that they had a nice ham sandwich that George brought along from the model. Steve says there are two brothers and sometimes George and sometimes Steve. Harry says that he is getting the names mixed up. There is music playing in the background and the time is 12:00 pm. Frank says he does not have a radio in his car. They are now going to cross Banner Creek and they are in the neighborhood of the Richardson Road house. Now they are on the Shaw Creek Hill and they are going down the hill to Shaw Creek. The sun is coming out and the mountains are covered with the first snow of the fall. They will be crossing the Shaw Creek Bridge right now. There is good fishing. Frank has been meditating out loud about the fishing. Frank says he is going to come up to go fishing. There is a little man and his wife at the Shaw Creek Tavern.

At 49:00 of the recording Harry says that Frank is making arrangements to bring his boat to Shaw Creek. The recording ends.