

Call number: 02-00-62-21

John Hadjukovich Interview

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

The recording begins with Harrie Hughes stating that this is the second side of the second roll of tape. This recording is a continuation of 02-00-62-20 Pt. 2. Harrie is saying that he is on a trip with Jimmy McDonald and his nice little Cadillac. And Steve and Frank and Harrie are all together. They just prepared to go fishing on the previous end of the previous reel. One of the men is saying that the group is invited to go to the trailer and spend the day fishing. One of the men is talking about Frank Mcarley [?] and is saying that Frank had a nice specialist work on him. Frank had glaucoma and he has pretty good vision now. He can get out of the hotel and cross streets.

Harrie says they are now at the entrance of the Big Delta and they have some repairs going on. There is now two lane traffic. Harrie says they can see the trestle that was put in to replace the old ferry. Now they are crossing the bridge. Mount Hayes is visible. This is supposed to be a game preserve called the Mr. Hayes Game Preserve. This year's snow has surely moved down the mountain. They are getting very close to John Hajdukovich's home. Jimmy wants to go to Big Delta before they go to visit John. Tommy Wilson is discussed. She used to play instruments at the roadhouse and was married to Tom Wilson. They had a baby and have lived in the area ever since. There used to be a fellow by the name of Forbes who had a roadhouse. It was a green building and there used to be a postal office. The man who had the roadhouse was actually named Jack Warren. They are passing Wilson's house. They just passed Old Tom Wilson's place. There are new houses but there are a lot of for sale signs. Tom Wilson has an old Cadillac sitting outside of his place. Jimmy is getting angry at the amount of misinformation between the group. Harrie asks Jimmy if he needs new parts for his Cadillac and Jimmy says he knows what he needs parts for and it is the gentleman providing the wrong information throughout the road trip who just so happens to be sitting in the back seat.

At 4:35 of the recording Harrie says there is another beautiful cabin on the side of the road. Harrie says he saw that one being built and they are putting a new garage on it. A man and his wife were working on that cabin at all hours. The group is almost to Big Delta base. They stopped and took 10-12 exposures of the crane moving south. They are driving along the old FAA control offices. They can see down the dome and the snow on the mountains. They got a good drive in the car and they are looking for buffalo. They thought they saw something go across the road and were hoping it was the buffalo they turned around past the military monument at Bowling Lake where they caught the trout the other day. There is a military truck coming out right now. One of the men asks Jimmy to stop to see if the public is allowed in. The lake was overloaded with trout so there was no limit for fishing. They have finally arrived at John Hajdukovich's and Rica Rollins'. They are in the house now and Steve and Frank Young are talking to John. Harrie is providing a play-by-play narrative of their journey. John is heard

speaking but the hearing is difficult due to poor audio and a strong accent. John is talking about Combs and Madsen Field [?]. One of the people in the group is discussing pictures with the group. He mentions a picture of Alaska governor Egan. He mentions the Governor and Dixie Hall. John asks how Dixie is and the man replies that Dixie is alright and he is into politics. John says it is just about time. There is another picture of the governor and a queen. There is Dixie and his sister. He says he is cut off there. There is a picture in Fairbanks. One of the men says that Mrs. Beyanke [?] and one of the Waferson's [?] are in the picture. There is another picture of Mrs. Nordale taken near 2nd street and Cushman. Tanya Lee and Ingrid Lee are mentioned. There is another picture of Harrie and an old timer named Norman Hadley who used to play baseball in the Chena in 1904. John says he knew Norman Hadley. Harrie says the picture was taken in the Chena right in town and the next picture was taken at the same time. This portion of the recording is a duplicate of 02-00-62-02 John Hajdukovich.

At 34:14 of the recording a new portion starts that is not a duplicate of any of the recordings. Harrie is discussing that the group has just left John Hajdukovich's and Rica Rollen's house and he took a couple pictures of the door and they are on their way back down to Richardson roadhouse. The time is 3:08 pm in the afternoon. The recording stops and returns with Harrie Hughes saying that that was the end of the John Hajdukovich visit. Frank Young went home first and then Jimmy McDonald brought Harrie home. Steve Bonich was let off at the café. The tail end of the trip was not too clear because the battery was getting weak on the recorder. The recording stops.

The recording resumes at 35:44. The recorder is recording Harrie Hughes and another gentleman discussing Mickey McKenna being a bartender. The sound makes it appear as though they are driving in a vehicle. There is music playing not in the foreground. The man with Harrie says Mickey was a real wise guy. Mickey just so happened to be a numb nuts Australian according to the gentleman speaking. Mickey was always telling about the things he did in Australia. He asks Harrie if he ever listens to the radio program in Anchorage but the man cannot remember the name of the show. There is a female in the car and she suggests the name is Ruben James. Ruben James was there according to the man. He says Ruben James and Tom set this up. Some of them stayed there to listen to the thing. All at once the phone rang and Mickey is in one of the displays of storytelling. Ruben and Tom ask Ruben if he has been listening to the radio and he told them no. They told him that they just pulled his name out of a hat and they have a contest. They told him he has to answer a question in order to win a prize. Mickey asks them what the prize is. He told them he is just going to put his drink down and tells Ruben and Tom to give him a minute. He tells everyone at the bar what is happening and that KFAR is having a contest and they have just called him. He tells everyone at the bar that when they ask the question anyone who has the answer tell him because he is going to be able to win \$64. The radio personality asks the question which is "What is the name of the horse the masked man uses?" One of the guys in the bar says Hi Ho Silver. Mickey got all excited. The radio personalities tell Mickey that he is correct and that they will deliver the 64 bags of horse manure to Mickey in 15 minutes.

At 40:10 of the recording Harrie asks the man if he ever heard Mickey and Bob McKenna tell about his early life when he got married and how they came to get into the interior of Alaska. They called Mrs. McKenna Mickey for many years also. They worked for the Alaska Steamship Company and Bob was the bookkeeper for them. Then he worked a while for the Alaska Railroad in Juneau. They came up to

Seward. The man says he doesn't mean that McKenna and Harrie says he knows that is a different McKenna. The female [Mrs. Thomas] in the car asks whatever happened to the bartender. The man says he was up here last winter for two weeks and he's on the needle. The man tells those in the car to look at the road way over on that side of the hill. At 42:00 of the recording Harrie Hughes makes a personal appearance on the recording and says that the recording is just a little conversation of the trip they are taking around Big Delta. The people with Harrie Hughes are Jimmy McDonald and Mrs. Thomas. They are looking at the scene of Big Delta and there is snow on the hills. There are very low hanging clouds. This is September the 25th. They are at milepost 241 of Valdez at the moment. The time is 12:40 pm.

At 42:55 Harrie says that they have stopped at the Old Donna Road House. Jimmy says he doesn't know who built the roadhouse. They stopped and had coffee and sandwiches. They are on their way back to Fairbanks. Harrie says Jimmy is in confusion. Jimmy calls Harrie and Mrs. Thomas back seat drivers because they keep still. They are looking for old man Hermanson's cabin. Harrie believes the cabin is located by John Hanjdukovich's on the other side of the road but Jimmy doesn't believe Harrie. Harrie says that he has never seen an old timer who has been in the country for a long time afraid to down the trail someplace. Harrie says Jimmy is staying in his Cadillac and driving like an engineer on the railroad. The time is 3:30 and they have been stopped by old man Hermanson's home near Big Delta below the bridge at the junction. The location is known as Bridge View Subdivision. The property line is very close to his building and the road is on the neighbor's property. The plot number was 138974 on book 129 page 44. Harrie says he will let Joe Lawler know what he found out for him. They are now on Rica Rollin's old roadhouse where the ferry used to be on the Tanana River. Harrie has taken 3 or 4 exposures or pictures. Jimmy has taken Mrs. Thomas around to show her the diggings here. The recording ends.