

Call number: 02-00-62-26

Robert Bloom

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

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

The recording begins with a man discussing the mission of Robert Bloom. According to the man, Mr. Bloom is invested in attempting to revive the protection of this wheat. It is due to his progress and also Milton B. Snotgrass [?] of Palmer that the farmers of the Tanana Valley are planting wheat regularly though it is not suitable for commercial purpose. Snotgrass [?] was in charge of the experimental station of Kodiak from 1907-1912 and the eruption of Mt. Chitina destroyed most of the station. The ashes covered most of the island so Snotgrass [?] was appointed to take charge of the station at Fairbanks. During the year of 1911, Falcon Jocelyn who was the president of the railroad connection at Fairbanks was on his way to the states to try and raise funds to extend the railroad. While visiting the fair he noticed the display of grain of John Adelman [?] exhibited and asked if he could take the grains with him to show folks that think Alaska is in icebox. His intention was to let them see what can grow. John consented and Jocelyn took the display with him to Minnesota where he exhibited the grain. As a result of the exhibit a cup was awarded to John Adelman [?] and the cup is now in the possession of Mr. Bloom. The inscription on the cup says that Jocelyn was awarded for best display of cereal from Alaska at the Northern Land Shows in St. Paul. Flour is now shipped in from the mainland and the cost of living is very high. Bread is shipped by air. Since bread is the staff of life the man says that young homesteaders are encouraged to grow their food in the valley.

Bob Bloom begins speaking at 3:25 of the recording. He is discussing how everyone lost the purpose until the whole thing fell to pieces. The mill burned down as well and it was forgotten for a certain number of years. The farm that was created experimentally that was supposed to be in Fairbanks was moved to Matanuska to another farming center. Until recently he thought since the community rejuvenated itself, that the state had to do something to see that they have to produce wheat because the rest of the farming stuff like vegetables was already understood that enough could be grown there to support the whole community. Bob fell back again because bread wasn't mentioned. He thought they had to recreate the very good wheat that made such a lovely bread and see if they couldn't do well with the financial improvement.

At 5:34 of the recording Harrie Hughes steps to the microphone and says that he made the recording at the home of Bob Bloom in Seattle, Washington. 5901 Beach drive Seattle. Harrie says this is additional information to the documentary movie about growing wheat in the interior of Alaska. The recording stops. The recording resumes with music playing. More music plays. The recording ends.