

Visit with Anne Lyle Reichow, 17 March 2001 at 512 Herning Rd. *Others speaking are Al and Bruth George and Nancy Kuhn. Anne lives on property she and her first husband, George Lyle, homesteaded in the early 1950's. Mileage given is for Chena Hot Springs Rd. unless otherwise noted.*

B: When did your family come up here and in what order?

A: Harold and Carl came up first. Years and years ago when my dad was a young man, he went to San Francisco to visit some relatives and he got shanghaied on one of those whaling ships. They came to Alaskan waters and he and this fellow had heard about the gold rush and they decided they wanted to get in on it, so they took the little john boat and sneaked out and went ashore. I guess they had a sea captain that was quite stern and he went hunting for them. They made the mistake of setting up a little tent and the captain spotted the tent, and got them back. That was probably in the early 1900's. But he always wanted to go back and he talked about Alaska, so the boys decided, since the depression was on, they'd just go to Alaska to make their fortune.¹

B: Was your dad alive when you came up?

A: No, he died when I was a year old. He died in 1933. His name was Guy.... The boys eventually all, one by one, came up—Bill wasn't here, he'd married and was in Lewiston then. Mother had just gotten this bug in her ear—the Japanese were supposed to come into Puget Sound area and so on—and she wanted to be near her kids. So she sold the house we had and put us on the train and we came to Alaska. Flew from Whitehorse, up here.

N: You were in Seattle?

A: No, we were in Clarkston, Washington, on the Snake River at that time. My dad worked for the railroad and we kind of moved around from Ronan (MT) to Grangeville (ID) to Lapwai (ID). That's where my sister, Dorothy, was born. We came to Alaska in 1943.

B: You, your mother and Dorothy?

A: Yes, my brother, Harold, wrote her to come. The Japanese were in the Aleutians but were not a threat anymore when we got here.

The boys were really upset because they'd built this house (*in Clarkston*), then she goes and sells it and follows them right to Alaska. She lived for five years after we got here.

B: What year did you get here?

A: '43, July 17. We came on the train up through Canada to Edmonton and Whitehorse, I think. We flew from Whitehorse to Fairbanks then on Northern Consolidated Airlines, I believe. A small little airplane.

¹ The boys were, in order by age, Earl, Carl, Harold, Bill, and Don. Dorothy and Ann were the youngest of the family.

N: You know, people came across the prairie and brought everything...

A: She left everything. She left everything we had. I mean we had a little suitcase and one trunk, which she stuffed full of treasures. I remember my brother Bill was working up in Spokane and we only had hand-me-downs because the boys—everybody—was chipping in from whatever the little work they could get, and so he bought me a dress for every day of the week. First time I'd ever had anything but a hand-me-down, so we got ready to leave and Mother wouldn't let me bring a one of them. "You'll outgrow them anyway. We'll leave them for this other little girl," the people who were buying the house. They had a little girl. And my sister had a Shirley Temple doll. She wouldn't let me touch it. I mean it was gorgeous. I'd never had a doll, maybe what you'd call a rag doll. I wanted that doll so bad and Mother said, "No, we can't take that, we'll just leave it for the little girl." "But Mom, I'll carry it all the way." "No, you can't take that." And all our pictures and everything. She was just willing to grab her long underwear and go.

N: Did you ever go back and get any of it?

A: Years later, my brother Bill was living in Spokane and he got a call from the people and they said, "The stuff that your mother left is still up in the attic and we're going to clean it out." He went and he got the Bible, the old family Bible. And here's all these pictures, collections of arrowheads—he didn't take anything but that old Bible....

N: So you came up here—where did you live?

A: We lived with Beatrice and Harold, for awhile, then at Al West's. Mrs. West had gone to Seattle and he was out mining, so we lived there for awhile.

B: Beatrice and Harold had their house in town then?

A: Not yet, they were just renting a little cabin. Harold was working over at the airlines. Carl worked out in Goldstream on the dredge. You know, they just found work where they could. There was a kind of depression on in Fairbanks, too.

Because of the war scare, there were streets with empty houses just everywhere.... But they were locked up and there was no way you could live in them 'cause they belonged to somebody else that had left town and was coming back when it was safe. And here we were, coming to town!

My youngest brother, Don, was the last of the boys to come up. That was the thing that did it. We had a couple acres, in Clarkston. We had a garden and one time we had a cow and chickens. Then when Don left, it kind of took our main helper away. Mom said, "I always wanted to go to Alaska." She did. She loved it up here. I was eleven, Dorothy was sixteen and my mother was fifty.

B: Harold built a house on Ninth. Was it close to the one they built for your mother?

A: Yeah, right there on Cowles Street. The little house that was ours has corner windows facing the street. There's a garage in the yard now, so it takes the big garden we had there.

Springbetts had a cabin they lived in, then they built this nice house², so we moved into their cabin for the winter. Then the next year, they (*the boys*) built the little house and we moved over there. So when I was a freshman in high school we lived on Ninth and Cowles. When you're driving toward Shoppers' Forum, it's on the left. It's white with green trim... There was a lady who was a music director out at the University that lived there for years and years.

Springbett's old cabin was really interesting. You know how cabins are—this part here, then there's another piece added... It looked like it had five pieces and the floor sloped like this and they had the walls calsumined over airplane cloth....

N: Your house can't be too far from the double house that had a building right on the corner that used to be a boat house down on the river. They dragged it up. It's greenish...

A: Right across, on the other side of Ninth, there's a big old delapidated barn. That's been there forever. That's really old. George Clayton used to keep old cars in it. It's still there. Years ago, that was a stable, where they had horses and stuff. I think maybe the old barn was part of that place. When they were digging a basement, they found bones and horse shoes.³ It was right along that slough. There was an active slough there, running right through town. Then you had Weeks Field⁴ and then it was prairie. Carl and I used to go rabbit hunting across Weeks Field...

N: So, a girl of eleven—there must not have been a lot of young girls...

A: Well, Springbetts had a young girl, Dorothy⁵. She was two years older. We had a lot of fun. Wiens lived across the road and they had a daughter named Jean. Noel Wien's family.

When we first came to Fairbanks, it just beautiful. It was the 17th of July and it was a beautiful summer. Of course, where we came from it was hot and it was just wilting. Here was this pretty little town of green leaves. I think we got here on a Thursday and on Saturday Noel Wien called Harold up and said, "Let's go blueberry picking." So we all piled into their car and we went out to Cleary Summit. There'd been a fire through there, years before, and you wouldn't believe—I don't think I've ever seen blueberries like that..... Richard Wien was just a little kid then. He was probably six or seven. Cute little boy.

N: So all your family was already up here. Who had already moved out here (to the homestead)?

A: No one. See, the boys went into the military, then. After Carl came back from his military—he was in Nevada—we started going out and clearing brush. There was no way to clear land

² Still a nice house at Seventh and Perry.

³ According to Fairbanks, A City Historic Building Survey 1985, this building was "The White Seal Dock, formerly located on the riverfront..... later used as a freighter's barn." It is on the property occupied at one time by "waterman" Fred Musjerd who, according to this book, also had a wellhouse there. He delivered water around town by horse and heated wagon.

⁴ Fairbanks' first airport

⁵ Dorothy Springbett married brother Don.

except by hand so he handed us all hatchets and said, "Get to work." He did finally get a cat to come in and clear a place for a house. We helped him build a log house.

N: I don't have all this in my head—you're the baby, but who's the oldest?

A: My brother Earl was twenty-one when I was born so he was already gone from home. Then Carl, and Harold and Bill, then Don and my sister Dorothy. She married Walter Eberhardt, so David (*Eberhardt*) is my nephew.

B: And David and Guy (Herning) must be double cousins, aren't they? Because Bill's wife is Walter's sister.

A: When I was in my second year of highschool, they (*the Eberhardts*) went outside and brought brother Coby back. Oh, he was kind of a handsome guy and real flirty and everything but I thought, "No Way! That's too much."

B: By the way, that's something else I wanted to ask you about. You and Dorothy and who else laid that phone line.⁶

A: Oh, that was George and Walter, we all worked on that. George happened to get ahold of some old phone line from Fort Wainwright so we strung it, nailed it to the trees.

B: Do you know a piece of that is still down there across one of our trails? Did it go over to Earl's? It would have to go over the road.

A: I think it might have. It went to Brockman's and Bohnet's and Earl's.

When we first started to come out here, Steele Creek Rd. only went to the top of Gilmore Trail. That was the end of it. Then Fitzes⁷ had a little trail that went on over to Bert Stimple's (*both on the current Steele Cr. Rd.*). And that was the end of it. Then Funks came in and they put the trail on a little farther (*to where Brices are now*). It was just a kind of little trail through the woods. Then we branched off from Funk's. We'd leave the car at Fitz's yard and we'd walk from there with back packs. Then the army started clearing the other (*the first part of the Hot Springs Rd.*) because they wanted to put a site out there for the military, in Gettinger's field.

B: Did it take off there at four mile on the Steese? Cora (Gamble) said the military came in somewhere around the cemetery but maybe that was earlier.

A: Yes. Well, there was a trail around the cemetery. There was a homestead there called Lazelle's. That's why they call it Lazelle Rd.⁸ From there they went to Chena Hot Springs, there was a horse and buggy trail. They came in that Lazelle Rd. and right along the bottom of the

⁶ This line ran from Don Herning's on the north side of CHS Rd. at 5 M, to Carl's on the south side, then to Eberhardt's, Lyle's, Brockman's and Coby Eberhardt's near 7 M.

⁷ Dr. Fitz was a medical missionary who, with his family, left China to escape the upheaval leading to WWII.

⁸ Lazelle runs around the base of Birch Hill, directly across from the Johanson. It soon runs into the Ft. Wainwright boundary.

hill. But it was just a winter trail. They came in all these places and cleared off the hills and took the wood to burn in the NC plant.

N: So all these hills have been clear-cut?

A: Pretty much. Something happened over there by Love Rd. because when we moved in, there weren't any trees on that at all, just saplings. And you know, up there where Funks were, it looked like a meteorite had hit. I often wondered if it just burned everything off. But maybe it was just a forest fire.

B: You say where Funks were. Was that later Maranatha?

A: Yes. Where Brices live. Funks built their house right in that hole.....

B: So were George and Walter both GI's?

A: Walter had got out. He came up in '46 when he got back from his military service. He got a job out at Eielson, making a runway.... He rented a room from Edby Davis.

George was stationed out at Fort Wainwright and wanted a piece of land. He and his buddies came right from the base across this old trail.

B: So he and Walter were independent of each other as far as selecting land?

A: Dorothy had this friend that liked her real well, so he filed on a homestead and after he went outside to get out of his military service he came back and here was Walter, so he relinquished his homestead to Walter. And then they (*Dorothy and Walter*) got married in '48, after Mother died.

B: This was all Veterans' Preference, then?

A: It could have been but we just cleared the twenty acres and planted something, which was a laugh.

N: What did you plant?

A: Oats and barley and stuff.

Al: Remember, you only had to plant, you didn't have to harvest it.

A: Right. The man that was in charge of that was really nice. You know, we did a lot of it by hand and tried to build a house. Nobody had much money..... George started a little tar paper shack over there.

B: So you had some kind of a building before you built your basement?

A: Yeah, he and a couple of friends came out and built this little shack. I think it was ten by twenty or something.

B: So you lived in that for awhile?

A: For a year. Then we started the concrete block basement. By then we'd gotten Andy Anderson (*to bulldoze*)—they'd let out some money for people to have cat work done to help with the clearing. We didn't have to pay all of it. The government helped you.

N: George was the man you married?

A: Yes, in 1950. We were married thirty-one years.

N: How old were you?

A: Eighteen.

N: So just out of high school.

A: Oh, I wasn't even out of high school yet..... The principal threatened to cut me off, but it was only a few weeks till graduation and my grades were good, so they let me graduate. I got married and then went back to school and here was this little dumpy house and no woodpile and it was still cold and wintry. And I came home one day and the wind had blown the stovepipe down. The house was cold because I'd been gone all day and the wind was blowing twenty-five, thirty miles an hour and I sat down wondering, "What did I ever do this for?"

N: There must not have been a lot of young women around.

A: Not that would come out and homestead. That's for sure. My classmates thought I was crazy.

B: What was the ratio of men to women, about that time, anyway?

A: Well, there was tons of GIs in Fairbanks, and not very many women. When we came up, Fairbanks was just solid GIs. Of course, the Line⁹ was going strong. We were very curious about that. We used to walk down the street and walk around and some GIs would come out that little door and we'd look back in to see what we could see. Old wooden sidewalks going in there. When my friends that I graduated with came last summer, I had lunch for them, and we all talked about it. Mary Ann had this guy that was kind of interested in her so she was over at Degnan's house which was right down the street (*from the Line*) and they were upstairs so they were trying to see what was going on down there and here was this guy. She says, "I never spoke to him again."

N: I never figured out how long the line was.

A: Just one block, no, sorta two blocks....

N: This would have been in the forties.

⁹ The Red Light district.

B: Started earlier than that.

A: Yeah, but it was going full swing. It was ironic because the Nerland's owned it. Here they were the upstanding citizens of Fairbanks.¹⁰

B: Well, apparently the town fathers agreed that this was the lesser of the evils. They could control it there.

A: Then they had a pool hall that a lot of guys spent time in. And they had a laundry, called Bell's laundry. When she came to Fairbanks that's where Tilly (*Brockman*) got a job. She did the girls' laundry. She wasn't getting in on the other business....

B: That leads to another question. Did Tilly come up on her own and meet Henry here?

A: Uh huh. She'd been married before and had a daughter, Irma, who was my sister's best girl friend, but she lived in California. When she got to be sixteen, she came up to stay with her mother. By then I think Tilly had married (*Henry Brockman*). At that time they lived on the next block from the line. My sister was chums with Irma, and they had another friend also named Dorothy and those three girls, they had more fun. They were the swingers and dated GIs. Dorothy, my sister, was out of school by that time.

Down on Cushman St., there was a card shop and there was this little Italian guy in there who was a friend of Hank and Tilly's. We'd go in there and talk to him. He had an old Model A Ford, I guess it was, so he gave that to Mickey and the girls. They called it Umbiago. They'd get all dressed up and ride around town in that old car.

B: What brought Hank up?

A: I think he worked all over Alaska. He worked in Juneau in gold mines. He worked out at Fairbanks Creek for awhile. He worked at the HiYu mine for awhile.

Al: Did he have some special knowledge, training—as a machinist or carpenter...?

A: No, he worked at Fairbanks Lumber for a long time, but it was just labor work.... He was real entertainment. He'd come over to visit. The boys just loved him. They'd say, "Hank, tell us another one of your big stories." "Well, that puts me in mind of back when I was...." Oh, he told the kids about frozen miners that were found along the trail in the spring

Us girls had bicycles and we used to bicycle all over Fairbanks... We used to bicycle out to the University on this old gravel road and it was about all we could do to get out there. We'd usually take a picnic sandwich along. Or out to Birch Hill.

¹⁰ In *Good Time Girls*, author Lael Morgan writes, "(Archdeacon Hudson) Stuck convinced Andrew Nerland to help with land title transfers and other business arrangements.... In Dawson, prostitutes had been forced to rent from unscrupulous landowners, whose real names were cleverly concealed. To Andrew Nerland's credit, the Fairbanks women were given the opportunity to purchase lots in their district and rents were kept fairly reasonable by city fathers who invested openly."

B: Speaking of old timers, what do you know about Fred Anderson?

A: Well, I only know that he lived in Nenana for awhile. Harold was building something down there, maybe the City Hall. I think that's where Harold met Fred and there was this old wood chopper's cabin (*on Harold's place*) that Fred moved into.

Of course, there was an old cabin where Frank Betschart lived¹¹. He was a person that came after the war. I think they were Jewish or German, anyway, so he sent his wife and child to Dresden so they'd be safe. That's where the Americans bombed by mistake and they got killed. He was just real upset about that, but he came to America and ended up living out there. It was a five acre homesite that he got. Right where Nordale Rd. goes. It went right over the house site.

He had a nice view and he had this garden. It was unbelievable. He had cherry trees and raspberry bushes with the biggest berries you ever saw. And he had friends in Russia—maybe that's where he was from—he had this gorgeous garden.... I used to go over and visit him. He had tame birds... he'd leave the door open and grouse would come in. He'd feed them. He died of cancer.... Had to have been in '49. And he left the place to Dr. Haggland because he didn't have money to pay the hospital bill.....

One time we went walking down that trail. Betschart's old cabin had burned down or it had caved in, but he had this root cellar, so just for the heck of it we tried to find the door..... It was sort of caved in. Bobby (*Anne's oldest boy, about six at the time*) was real skinny so he kinda squeezed in and got some jars of cranberry relish that Frank had made and it was still good. That was like ten years after it was made. So we took it home and ate it. But he was great, taking care of himself and canning. He grew strawberries.

N: You said he had cherries. Chokecherries?

A: They were real cherries, from Siberia. They were pretty good size. People came out from the University and they dug up a lot of his stuff and took it away. Out to the University....

My sister was really good with her garden, the sun hit it really nice and she had beautiful corn, all full of ears. This lady tourist came driving in there and spotted her garden and asked Dorothy how she started it. Well, we kept all our cans, from vegetables. You'd cut off both ends and fill them with dirt. Then when you got ready to plant you'd just slip the plants right out. Dorothy said she'd planted a hundred and fifty cans of corn. And this lady thought she was crazy.

B: Did you expect, and did Dorothy and Walter expect, to do any amount of farming?

A: Well, they had potatoes, great big fields of them. They had twenty acres in potatoes. We had what we cleared and Harold cleared on his place. They had that co-op.... It kind of fell by the wayside because of potato wars..... We were selling them for 10-12 cents a pound then and they got them down to 2-3 cents a pound. And everybody in the co-op—we couldn't make it. That kind of ran us out of business.

¹¹ Near where Severns Rd. intersects Nordale Rd.

Earlier, Harold cleared this field down here and we went in full time with him on potatoes. One year we had sixty tons. We carved out the hillside and put logs over the top and made a root cellar. Beatrice and I spent the whole winter, a couple years, in that. We got so dum-dum and slaphappy. We'd go down in the morning, after we sent the kids off to school, and we'd come out about four o'clock. Sorting and washing. We sold them down at Delta in ten pound bags. Sometimes fifty pounds. It was a lot of work. Then Walter had that field over there and the kids, all of us, worked that. They had beautiful potatoes.

B: What kind of potatoes were you growing?

A: Well, we got them from Frank Betschart, to start with. He had some he'd brought, or somebody had sent him, from Russia. They were big and clean and didn't have real deep eyes.

B: Were they dry, fairly dry?

A: Fairly and they were very good tasting. Lee (*Risse*) might still have some because we all got cuttings. I know there's some of that wheat left because Mattie's got a quart of Betschart's wheat that was entered in the fair....

But oh, that potato digging! We had a digger and you'd follow it the down the row and you had your pockets all full of sacks and you'd get the sacks as full as you could and then lift them up on the trucks. They had to take them and dump them in the cellar. Then we had to wash them and sort them.

N: Where were you getting the water?

A: We drilled a well in '57 so maybe it was our own water. Then Dorothy and Walter had a well, too.

N: Before wells, where were you getting water?

A: Snow. And Steele Creek. Go down and chop a hole in the ice. That's where Carl and I got the water. Henry Brockman had an artesian well. Good water.

N: Do you know who Steele Creek was named for?

A: There was a man that worked with the Department of Transportation¹² whose name was Steele. I think I've seen it in a book somewhere. I've got a lot of old Alaskan books....

B: Harold and George had a dealership, for awhile....

A: Oliver. George went into it a little bit but people didn't have money. People needed equipment but didn't have the money to make their payments.... Fairbanks, then, was a big town. It was enterprising, there were houses all over, nice houses. There were dirt streets but...

¹² Probably the Alaska Road Commission

B: Enterprising because of the war?

A: No, because of the gold mining.... Downtown is just gone from what it used to be.... It was busy down there....

B: When did the houses quit, going away from the river? Tenth street?

A: Probably, Ninth, Tenth, when it got to Weeks Field. Ladd Field was the bumper on one side, then the military had taken the land right up to Walter's homestead. So that's all Ft. Wainwright.

B: Did you know Frank Fassler?

A: Yes. He was a wood cutter, quite hunchbacked. He was from Switzerland. Neat man, just as nice as can be. Baked his own bread, took care of himself, built a tidy cabin. I used to walk up there and the floor would be swept and the doorstep swept and he cleaned his clothes. He could yodel. When we cleared our upper field, he came and cut the wood. He cut it in lengths and I hauled it, with our old jeep and a trailer, to the wood piles.

That old guy that was kind of crazy, tried to blow up the highway—what was his name? Denton. He lived down by Steele Creek. He didn't want progress to come in. He had a place on out, probably it was Ackerman's (*about 9 M*). Bulldozed up the road so nobody could go that way. Then he'd come out with his gun and scream, "You can't go any further." He was a small person. He moved down to Steele Creek, then he started closing the road off there.

B: What about Wortmans?

A: The dad was the first one in there. Dave, I think. Nice old man. He built his own house and had a rock cistern in the basement to store rainwater. Used to come down to Tilly's and drink coffee with Tilly and me.

B: I remember Mr. and Mrs. (Joe) Wortman.

A: That was his son.... When I lived down at Carl's, the only ones out here were Denton, and Tilly and Hank and... let me think. Someone from Alsace-Lorraine. He'd been a baker in Europe, I guess. He had huge hands, he was a big guy. He dressed in a black suit and had a big, black hat with a big crown on it.... Oh, Sherrer, Adolph Sherrer. And he had a little cabin and a little clearing (*at 7 M*). He was another one did all sorts of stuff. Saturday was his bake day so he used to say, "Come over, Saturday," and he'd have the table just full of rolls and bakery stuff. We'd have coffee and he'd send us home with cinnamon rolls and a fresh loaf of bread.

B: How big a place did he have to do all this?

A: Just a little cabin... Adolph was kind of interested in gold mining so he'd get all done in the fall and get his garden all tended to and then he'd take off for the hills, probably right over where Fort Knox is. But he never told anyone where he was going. He'd go over and pan

gold.... Here's Bob McQuinn (*at 7 M*). He was a character. Everybody was a character. Bernard O'Leary (*near 8 M*). They were an old time family. There was an article in the paper not too long ago about their trucking business, O'Leary's. They used to go out there and get wood and take it to town off that hillside. They had a horse and a big wagon. One time I was out hiking and I met them. They'd killed a moose and they had a load of wood. The horse was pulling the wagon and they were just dragging the moose along behind. I went to school with the boy, George.

B: Do you remember, the first house in the subdivision (Herning Hills), the one that burned?

A: Oh, that's where Guy's house is now.... It was a lovely house¹³. She had a gorgeous garden.. I went down to visit her and she took me into her larder and showed me. She had that thing full of canned stuff. The house burned in the winter.

B: How long were you down in the Tok area?

A: On the pipeline? Jimmy was just a baby and he was born in '55. Then we came back in the summer of '57. We lived down at the border at that Canol Pipeline thing. Then we moved up to Tok...when they built the line from Haines. They still had the old line but they didn't use it.

B: The little line came from Norman Wells, up in Canada?

A: Uh huh. They had a camp down there, closer to the border than Tok. Station J. Then they closed that all down and went on to the bigger pipeline....

B: What about the Lindstrands?

A: I don't remember when Everett came. Carl was in the military and he was there when we came, I guess. He was living in an old cabin. There were old cabins all over. There was one down in Walter's field. They pushed it all in one of those frost boils and that was the end of it....

B: Did you know anyone up ESRO road?

A: There wasn't anybody up there. Oh, there was an old trail up there and there'd been a guy goldmining. Then there was another spot over on Steele Creek where there was a big pile of gravel, so Don and I went up a couple times and panned gold. There was good gold. That was on Cora Gamble's place (*on ESRO Rd.*)....

B: Bohnet (7 M), did you know him?

A: Yeah. That was the Irma I was talking about that was Dorothy's real good friend, Tilly's daughter, Irma Bohnet. He was in the military here and that's where Irma met him and then they married. When they left here they had three kids. They moved outside and lived near Sacramento.... Birkey's¹⁴ didn't move in until later.... Gruenthal's ended up on the Yoder place

¹³ Located on Rhonda Ave., it belonged to people named Goodwin. They left the community after the fire.

¹⁴ At the end of the present Risse Rd., near 6½ M.

(4 M), I think. He had worked in Iran or Iraq. They got out when things got kind of hot over there, then he got a job here for couple or three years.

N: When they paved the road in the 70's, do I have it right that they went through west of Harold's to get the gravel (from the Little Chena)?

B: Yeah, right through Anne's property.

N: Did you give them a right-of-way for just a short period of time?

A: Yes. Well, just verbal right-of-way. Then when they got through they put some gravel in our yard.

B: Wasn't there an agreement that they would upgrade the road on the township line?

A: No, but they had to, to run on it.

N: Well, how did they make the connection between the road to the flats and the Hot Springs Rd? Was the township road¹⁵ always here and they just didn't use it?

B: It was cleared but was impassable a lot of the time until then.

A: The kids loved the construction. They were out there every minute watching those big trucks.

AI: In the winter, we use to sit at breakfast and watch these lights, way up over our heads, coming up the road. Harold would go out at 5 A.M. and start the motors and have them warmed up.¹⁶

B: It wasn't until then that we could drive the township road year round. We were going through Anne's property and coming out on Eberhardt's road. At that time we were coming out on top of the hill where there'd been no cut at all. That hill was a lot steeper and the road higher than now.

AI: Thirty-six feet higher.

B: This is previous to '65. They paved the road in '65 or so.

A: Was it that long ago? That's almost forty years.

AI: When they hauled the gravel up, they dumped it on either side of the cut made for the road and stored it there for a year. They had 80,000 cubic yards.

A: Then, when they built the road, they were able to go right there and pick it up.....

¹⁵ The "township road" became Herning Rd. later.

¹⁶ Harold rented space to park a number of Euclid scrapers at his place, 1 M Herning Rd.

When Eleanor Riedel (5 M) first moved out, she had a dog and we had a dog. Carl and I were raising chickens for Dr. Haggland. He wanted fresh chickens, so we got 150. We came home from fishing one Sunday and there was about thirty-five chickens left. Both dogs got in there and there were chickens all over the yard. They'd had a ball....

N: There was some kind of zoo at the Bull's Eye?¹⁷

A: They'd cleared a field in back ... and had some corrals...

N: What kind of zoo was it going to be?

A: I remember they had some reindeer.

Al: They planted a bunch of cabbage down in back so you could sit at the bar and watch the cow moose and her calves eat cabbage....

N: Harold told me one time that he'd given the land to those people in the igloos.¹⁸

A: Well, he had land there and when they did the pipeline they cut the property right in half....
(end)

Transcribed and edited by Bruth George

I agree to share this material with fellow interviewees and others interested in local history.

_____ name

_____ date

¹⁷ A bar which started out as The Hillside, a restaurant. Pete Aiken built the original building on his property at 4 M. It's now a residence.

¹⁸ A Native American group at Steele Cr. and Chena Hot Springs Rds.