

From Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Question marks and blanks indicate gaps in the microfilmed copy.

"April 20, 1949:

Oldtimer Frank Betschard Dies

Frank Betschard, homesteader and oldtimer, died last night at 8:15 at St. Joseph's hospital where he was taken February 12 after a severe attack of pleurisy.

Born in Switzerland 73 years ago, Betschard came to Dawson in 1902 and to Fairbanks in 1905. He and Joe Suter, his partner, hauled wood for the Northern Commercial company in the early days. Then Betschard became a homesteader. He bought ground about a mile and a half from the end of the Steel Creek road. His grain, fruit and vegetables won many first prizes at the Tanana Valley Fair. The oldtimer believed that fruit could be grown successfully in Alaska, and had devoted many years of research to experimenting with grafting and growing gr_____ of fruit trees to produce a hardy stock. He had hoped to grow(?) apples in 1950 and had already had considerable success with (rasp?)berries. Betschard's strains have been sent to Siberia and to Washinton, D.C.

No information about survivors was obtainable today."