

Kathy and Fred Hosford
National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Oral History Project
Skagway, Alaska
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Karen Brewster: Today is May 18th 2010 and I'm Karen Brewster and I'm here in Dyea, Alaska and Skagway with Kathy and Fred Hosford here in Skagway for the National Park Service Skagway Oral History Project. Thank you for letting us come visit you here in your beautiful home here. And let's get started here, we'll start with Fred and his family history, you know it goes way back up here in Dyea, maybe you can tell us a little bit about that.

Fred Hosford: Yah, my parents come from New York City and they came into Skagway and my Father was a longshoreman in downtown here. And he had a friend that lived over on the beach he had a homestead where Robert Murphy is today and his name was Al Nelson and my father spent a lot of time over there helping the old man run his trap lines up in the mountains. And as years went on my father had lots of friends at the White Pass dock and those guys come help him build the mill up on the Chilkoot Trail and Jimmy Alexander, the Mahle family and Ed Kalen and ah they, their biggest customer was White Pass Railroad they hauled lumber into Skagway and he put a bridge across that river up there.

Karen Brewster: Which river?

Fred Hosford: The Taiya

Kathy Hosford: Yes and also the West Creek

Fred Hosford: Yes and that was later we actually went up West Creek and built two miles of road and we put a bridge in and hauled timber to the beach over there by Nelsons old homestead [] the tug boats used to come in on high tide and grab a raft of logs and away they'd go.

Karen Brewster: What year did your father come up here?

Fred Hosford: I believe it was in '46

Kathy Hosford: '45 or '46 we're not exactly sure about the year. We don't have that but he was very young

Karen Brewster: and the time before when we were off tape about why he might have come up here, what he did before he came up here?

Kathy Hosford: He was...his intent was to play saxophone in the Tommy Dorsey Band. They had endorsed him as a young person who was going to go someplace. We saw Arty Goldstrum in the New York paper. We understand that he broke his arm about seventeen years old and took a train across

country [] he had thirty dollars in the toe of his shoe and when he woke up the money was gone but that landed him in Seattle to earn enough money to get on a steam boat up to here to long shore because they needed longshoremen. Was that correct Fred?

Fred Hosford: Un-huh

Kathy Hosford: but where he got his longshoring experience prior to leaving New York we don't really understand or know and all the people all the people we ask don't know and too late to ask him of course but he came here to Skagway and sent for his girl [] Hosford and here they had five children and raised them and never really left the Skagway, Dyea valley. But as recent as last year we still didn't know what was that drawing card for that young man to come to Alaska because he was definitely a city boy with no previous frontier experience. Mo's Frontier Bar was renovated last year [] One of those newspapers was October 12, 1906 the Daily Alaskan and it was brought to us as a Christmas present by Long Bay Keith here came to dinner and I was fascinated here on the front page of that paper it had an article about Mrs. F. L. Hosford returning to the east coast. She's entertaining at the Elks' Club and on another [] two pieces of property that belonged to F. L. Hosford which is a very rare unique name and that was I believe it was the Kirmse property and where the coach cleaner sat. They were delinquent on their taxes. And I believe that was the departure of the Hosfords and we know that his great uncle Frank was Frank L. Hosford and his great-grandfather was Fred L. Hosford [] Hosfords so we're pretty confident that his great-uncle as a gold rush family. And they never perceived themselves as a Gold Rush family because Fred didn't get here until the forties.

Karen Brewster: And you never heard family stories?

Fred Hosford: No, never that's my initials too, F. L. from my grandfather.

Kathy Hosford: And there was never any questions asked. They didn't interact with the other family anywhere else and there was nobody to ask and now it's too late []

Karen Brewster: May have known there was family here or he'd heard the stories from his uncle or something.

Kathy Hosford: That's my sentiment, I feel pretty confident because if you take a young man from a very esteem family that lived the city life to come to Alaska there had to be a drawing card. And his dad was pretty amazing in different ways he was very successful in many [] gave everything away, he had the ability to homestead and home sites, but he would always help other people do the surveying for their homesteads and home sites. And start a new endeavor but he was in the timber business most of his life.

Karen Brewster: Do you know why he decided to build that sawmill way up here?

Fred Hosford: Well I think he just realized the demand for lumber in town with the railroad all the people that were trying to build homes and nobody had [] and he got what with the state and they put up the timber sale up there for him and a lot of people helped him.

Kathy Hosford: He put a lot of people to work at that time too. Still a few old timers around that are still really grateful for the employment that it offered and the different places in town []

Karen Brewster: Yes because it was after the military had been here.

Fred Hosford: Yes, and that was one thing that I've been told that they wanted to get the military off the dock and start getting local people to work. And they organized the Longshore Unit down there.

Karen Brewster: That's interesting, I hadn't realized that when there was all that military coming through that the longshoring would have been military guys doing it not local people.

Fred Hosford: That's what this Jimmy Alexander tells me. And I sure wish you people could meet him because he's a very interesting man.

Kathy Hosford: He definitely [] or at least in sight and I'll repeat this that nobody would, we have discovered. We have discovered so much after all our long history and coming back here to the Dyea valley ten years ago all the sudden history takes on a new meaning and you want to know more. And so Jimmy has been a resource for us that has been pretty incredible. Just finding out how this piece of property was homesteaded and why it only ended up to be five acres [] the original stakes with the original owner Malcolm Mo and gave us a complete story of this property. So it's been a fun journey because none of this has ever been documented it's all about Skagway and everybody just assumed Dyea just happened out here as it was. The fun part is all the roads everyone drives on these were all logging roads

Karen Brewster: Logging roads, I was wondering when we were driving out here about the Dyea road

Kathy Hosford: that's another [] which I collected a lot of history on that, was a project clear back in the thirties had been discussed to get a road to Dyea because there were trails over here and telegraph lines and different things. And a man named Frolander worked for the territorial government and several other old times really wanted to bust that road to Dyea. I couldn't find anything; there was never a plan he just blasted his way to Dyea. And his, Governor Gruening was a friend of his and made a lot of effort to slip him \$20,000 where as the legislature really despised having the money come up here because they weren't interested in seeing a road up to Dyea. But the intent was eventually get to Haines and I think they had a wagon trail that they started over there [] All these hopes that we could connect with the Alaskan Highway through Haines, consequently we built the Klondike Highway and it's no more

Fred Hosford: One thing while it is still fresh in my mind you guys have a young man works for you that with National Park Service named Si Dennis?

Karen Brewster: Un-huh

Fred Hosford: His Father helped build this road also, he worked for Frolander too, Si Dennis senior. And ah, his grandfather and my father used to, they had a contract to brush this Chilkoot Trail [] when they were younger they all went up and brushed it. I remember yah, Burt Dennis was the grandfather to the

Dennis Family, him and my Father and Jimmy Alexander they all went up and brushed that Chilkoot Trail all the way up to Bennett

Karen Brewster: Wow to make it the recreational trail that it is

Fred Hosford: Yes, try to keep it up.

Karen Brewster: Do you know what years that would have been?

Fred Hosford: No I don't exactly but I know but I know Jimmy Alexander could tell you.

Karen Brewster: [] the history of your homestead here you were saying is an interesting story

Kathy Hosford: It is an interesting story. I think there were five homesteaders that homesteaded Dyea after the gold rush. You have of course the famous Ma Pullen, um Wesley Patterson, Matthews right?

Fred Hosford: Ken Lamerall

Kathy Hosford: Ken Lamerall and Malcolm Mos's homestead was the only homestead that ended up being a home site. You have to understand home sites law [] we have articles and documentation of him coming out here and staking this piece of property, 1945 is the earliest paperwork we could find but he had been here for quite a while already before he staked it. He staked it and he was going to have a dude ranch and a turkey ranch. He was married to Leemo he was the only private property [] guide of the Taiya river so it was unique like that. Dyea road actually ended at the bottom of the hill when Frolander finally busted through after all those years. So you'd have to cross at low tide to get over here so it was like a driveway, hence the Dyea road, Malcolm Mo's driveway became the road. I own the road in a way so and then of course they [] in 1947 I think it was and your Dad helped build that too. And so this piece of property was homesteaded originally going for the whole 160 acres. According to Jimmy Alexander he was prohibited because one thing or another so he tried to simplify it and he staked out ten acres and where they put the initial corners that was switched years later [] and they came and reset his stakes and it changed the face of this property. But the funny part is everybody in this town um, believed that this property stretched from the bottom of the hill all the way to the Chilkoot Trail. When we purchased it we really didn't know what we were buying. But of course then the survey revealed that it was only five acres and it was just amazing that it didn't include Mo's garden [] Mo's pool a different piece of property. Um so it kind of narrowed down how large a piece of property this was. But interestingly enough we have an article from the Juneau Empire that Leemo and this was the second year that they were raising turkeys. This was 1948 they had brought 500 turkeys in, and chickens and the intent was to supply southeast Alaska with fresh poultry. [] and with the territory about where the property was he had several improvements on this property and then he started Mo's Frontier Bar and I believe that was also in the 40s too and that became more of a drawing card than being out here. So he kind of left this piece of property be, was very busy in town with Mo's Frontier Bar and just let people come out here and live on this piece of property and one [] for about thirty years and this was a garbage dump because everybody put their trash here and Paul Jones didn't remove any trash. Everybody

changed their oil to their car here and I can go on and on. It took us a full year of remediation to clean it up, but its okay I mean it's just the way things are.

Karen Brewster: So you hauled out a lot of gravel?

Kathy Hosford: [] Some of it was just took and brought it to the remediation project in Skagway

Karen Brewster: You had to take out all the top soil and start all over again.

Fred Hosford: Yes we hauled a lot out and they were doing a remediation project downtown and Ed Hanousek helped us get rid of the contaminated dirt, they burned that. And speaking of the Hanouseks they were very instrumental in this Dyea valley too they had a homestead across the West Creek river [] and then his brother Emo lived out here for years, yah.

Kathy Hosford: So it was a huge clean-up effort. And at this time that we purchased this piece of property there was ... a single lane road out here and again you could only get radio on FM if you had a nice big copper antennae that was on occasion so communications were [] nil out here. And then of course when we started building this, which is a whole other story, those kinds of things that you have to have electricity, water, sewer, communications and Fred and I have both spent years trying to encourage the Department Of Transportation to fix the road, which we've had some remarkable improvements on it. We were able to secure an energy grant for AP&T [] power extension which brought us actual city power and telephone. So what you see now, if you can imagine being out here in the middle of winter um, trying to build a place with logs was quite an effort to get this project done. Anyway this is (shows photo album of garbage photos) I always have to show people that it was quite a clean up around here. There is a natural spring on the property and a big spruce was there [] saucers, forks, knives just [] PJ used to just throw it in there and hope that it would wash itself, you know. Pretty much got it all cleaned up I think. But our effort for this when Fred and I came back to Skagway in '98 I think it was and it was we purchased this property not knowing what to do with it. We started by removing a 160 cottonwood trees and that was just the beginning. [] so we had a lot of slough areas a lot of fill. It is still an on-going project but we had intended, we had said why don't we build a couple little cabins an one little bit bigger one for ourselves but once you get started on something like this you say gee how big should it be someday? So you think if we're putting in lines already maybe we should throw in another sewer line just in case we want to build more but incredibly enough from the time we purchased this property and started this project [] 2001 we were living in this building 2002 all the cabins were open and running. And to this day I look around and wonder how all that got done because so much had to be accomplished it was just unbelievable amount of thought that had to go into it and we had some really great people that helped us put it all together. I could go on and on about who all those people are but people who understood working in the woods and getting something like this done.

Karen Brewster: So you grew up out here or in Skagway or

Fred Hosford: Pretty much out here and today my whole family lives out here in Dyea. My Brother Ray, and my Brother Mike, we have a spot out here for my sister Janet who lives up in Kenai. And my son has

property over here in Dyea and my nephew who, Ray Jr. he has property out here. A lot more people live out here than you can really tell just by driving around. All them little side roads you see is somebody in there

Karen Brewster: When were you born?

Fred Hosford: '49

Karen Brewster: So you came up

Fred Hosford: I was born right here in Skagway.

Karen Brewster: Right so what was it like out here in those years?

Fred Hosford: When I lived here there was just one old timer that was lived out here and everybody they loved the old man

Karen Brewster: And who was that?

Fred Hosford: Amal Hanousek, so people would come out here to visit him he had several different cabins one got washed away in the river, some got burnt down. Everybody helped him [] and from what I can remember my Father also in later years and his brother Ed Hanousek like I mentioned he was across the West Creek there and he helped at the Sawmill too.

Karen Brewster: And then did you help your dad with the sawmill?

Fred Hosford: Not with the sawmill but every logging project he had in later years from the early '60s on. Myself and my brothers were involved and we took timber out of West Creek and we worked for him out of Haines and St. Petersburg, Sitka

Karen Brewster: It seems like it would be hard work, was it?

Fred Hosford: Ah, yes it was it was hard work but we were a lot younger then and we enjoyed it and met lots of nice people.

Karen Brewster: And your father built a cabin out here that your family lived in or?

Fred Hosford: Up at the sawmill site he actually built a cabin and he built a house. In later years people actually took the lumber from the house and took it to Skagway and built another one.

Karen Brewster: And what was life like with the family in that cabin? Was there obviously there was no running water or electricity or

Fred Hosford: None of that everybody had Coleman lanterns, packed their water, heated it in on a barrel stove for cleaning up and everything

Kathy Hosford: We did that ten years ago, excuse me.

Karen Brewster: So you burned wood?

Fred Hosford: Burned wood, had our own garden

Karen Brewster: What about school?

Fred Hosford: We would come back into Skagway for the school months

Karen Brewster: So you lived in town for school. It seems like it would have been a long commute

Fred Hosford: Yes it would have been.

Kathy Hosford: He used to ride his bicycle quite a bit

Fred Hosford: I rode my bike a lot back in those days. Of course people are doing that a lot today and the roads are in a lot better shape too

Kathy Hosford: The bikes too.

Karen Brewster: So would you bicycle from here to Skagway?

Fred Hosford: Yes

Karen Brewster: Wow [] that could be quite a trip on a bad road

Fred Hosford: Yah the road is actually in pretty good shape these days.

Karen Brewster: So [] I always thought the gold rush focal point and then now that people are homesteading what is the time line then when Dyea lost its fervor as a gold rush town?

Kathy Hosford: and everybody kind of moved out because Skagway was hustling and bustling with the railroad and there was just no reason to be out here. But I think that Ma Pullen and old Man across

Fred Hosford: Bill Matthews

Kathy Hosford: Bill Matthews

Fred Hosford: He used to own that cabin on Park Service Property as you head to the tide flats you see the remains of an old cabin setting there. That was the Bill Matthews' family.

Kathy Hosford: And those old people were still around when he was little. I didn't come until the seventies but um, the dynamics have changed just so much, I mean Dyea was just way out there no place you know the Park Service didn't really show presence until the '80s. We didn't even become a part of the Park Service until '70s maybe. So the part that is a little bit hard but you have to move on and things change but the Park access parts of the Dyea Valley and once you've been here pretty much the only people out here you feel like you own it all and then all of a sudden you realize you don't, you know so that's been a tremendous change. He and everyone learned how to drive in Dyea out on the dirt roads [] and so he got a jalopy and took a ride out to the Dyea beach just some old car that he had drug

home. Well there was a new Park Ranger in town that was watching him real carefully waited until he got on park property and stopped him and ticketed him because he had expired tabs on the vehicle. So you know things like that were unheard of at one time in Skagway or Dyea. So things have changed pretty dramatically like that.

Fred Hosford: The National Park Service fixed up this town, the buildings downtown looks really nice, they've come out here and rented our dining room had meetings here. I mean they have actually been a good neighbor. Things have changed but

Karen Brewster: When they first started there was hesitancy amongst local people?

Fred Hosford: Yah, nobody knew what to expect.

Kathy Hosford: We had some end-holder come here begging us not to let the park in Chuck somebody but for years all of us []

Fred Hosford: We actually get along real good with the Park Service.

Kathy Hosford: Yes we do.

Fred Hosford: A lot of the workers that work for the Park Service today have worked for Kathy and I out here at the lodge and like I say they rented our dining room and had meetings here and we've hosted some of their workers when they come to town without a place to stay, they've rented rooms here

Karen Brewster: So tell me, you mentioned the Matthews cabin and I know that Park Service is interested a little bit more about that place and the history. [] do you know when the Matthews may have built it or anything like that?

Fred Hosford: No I don't but I believe it was a gold rush cabin, and then farther up the road by the National Park Housing up here, there is another cabin homesteaded by Wesley Patterson. And he homesteaded 160 acres out here. And in later years John and Lorna McDermott bought that property and they gave that cabin to the National Park Service [] possibly because it was going to float down the river. So anyway we're hoping

Karen Brewster: And with the Matthews one, you don't know if anyone was in it before him?

Fred Hosford: No I don't but they were a gold rush family.

Kathy Hosford: We have Sophie Matthews' original marker board for her gravesite here. The family had come back a few years ago and Fred had gone to school with

Fred Hosford: with some of their relatives

Kathy Hosford: some of the relatives, and then a teacher from Haines [] they had it on the back of their truck and they were so excited to see this in Dyea because there was nothing here before. And they were so excited because they had a big pile of all the little pickets and the old marker boards and stuff and they had redone her crib and they were going to go burn the original stuff. And we asked if we could

have it and I still have it sitting out by a tree out here and I try to tell the story about Sophie Matthews [] you know she passed and her children passed the year before she did a one year old and an eight year old. It was really pretty sad. I think it was from disease or something that the children passed from

Fred Hosford: We had a lot of the Yukon Natives that were in the Dyea valley too back in gold rush. One that sticks in my mind is the Jacquot family, I believe Larry Jacquot's grandmother was actually raised around Dyea.

Karen Brewster: So this valley was used by the local Native people before the gold rush

Fred Hosford: Yes they did a lot of packing and trading up the Chilkoot Trail.

Kathy Hosford: Yes this was pretty much the only groomed safe way to get to the gold fields and so when you put that in perspective and you hear about the White Pass and the Chilkat Pass over in Haines you know, often times there would be so much snow and stuff they couldn't . But this pass was groomed by the Tlingit Indians for centuries so it was just like a little [] but it was considered the easiest way to get up and into the um, the gold fields you know to get up to Dawson city. I don't think the White Pass as I understand it was just so treacherous because of the wind and you know it was just rugged and you have Deadhorse Gulch and all that. Whereas the Tlingits, had for centuries had been using this trail out here. If you look at a map at the turn of the century, you see a big Seattle, a pretty small Skagway and a big Dyea and that gives you the flavor of what went on at that time. That stampede wanted to get out here and get packing up the trail to go get their gold nuggets laying on the ground I guess. It didn't happen for a lot of people but man I can't even imagine a time like that what would have drawn all those people here. They must have been starving.

Karen Brewster: And again the photograph you have, how big Dyea was when you look at it now. []

Kathy Hosford: Forty-eight hotels, Forty-seven restaurants and thirty-nine taverns on that beautiful flats out there. And all you see is a few pegs of that pier that they tried to build to get to deep water to compete with Skagway's. I mean it was so short lived you're looking in only a couple years, how much can you get done. And then once the railroad was built why bother with the Chilkoot Trail. But this valley [] you talk to the old timers, the natives and stuff, this valley has meant so much to them because it is so calm and peaceful here. Where you can go to town and the wind will be whistling and you can come out to Dyea and it's just a whole different ballgame. Two different, this is my favorite, the Chilkoot Trail is not in Skagway it never has been it never will be. When you see a shirt that says I hiked the Chilkoot Trail, Skagway, [] but it is only to give recognition to Dyea.

Karen Brewster: Right

Fred Hosford: Another family that was very active out here after the gold rush was the Blanchard family and I believe Gordy Blanchard today lives in Cantwell, Alaska.

Kathy Hosford: He just left this morning. We should have held onto him so he could tell you some stories.

Fred Hosford: And I believe his aunt or mother was possibly married to that lady that [] and Al had a big homestead where Robert Murphy is today, with his dog sled operation and all that.

Karen Brewster: It is interesting why people came back, like your dad came back in the '40s and why people came back here and started homesteading

Fred Hosford: Yah, there was no road out here, and they come out here in little skiffs they came out in little boats.

Karen Brewster: [] you don't know why your dad chose to come out to Dyea?

Fred Hosford: not really

Kathy Hosford: [] a lot of stories by some of the people that worked for him asking about what he remembers of the saw mill. They were all five year apart kids that um, a lot of kids at the sawmill.

Fred Hosford: I mean his first reason for coming to Dyea was to go visit Al Nelson who lived over on the beach. That was a real good friend of his and he helped to run Al Nelson's trap line up the mountains and they got to be friends

Karen Brewster: right

Kathy Hosford: [] a lot of people wonder why the Chilkoot Trail is nice up to the sawmill and then it turns into trails. But these were logging roads that were pretty much cleared to get up there. The beginning here you know is a fake start the first two miles, the stampede came across the West Creek on boats or cable crossing or whatever but in the younger years his dad built the first bridge to [] drive their logging trucks across. And that bridge got washed out didn't it?

Fred Hosford: Yes

Kathy Hosford: Completely. Another interesting story was in 2002 we had a flood out here the Dyea and the Irene Glacier had sloughed off had bloated a big lake and all the trees and stuff kind of sat up there until the tips of the glaciers broke off and blew the debris off the mountain and we had this flash flood out here. It was the first our reaction what am I doing. With that being said we had huge spruce trees, huge rocks come off of the glaciers. And no one was hurt thank goodness, it was 6 in the morning no rafts on the river or anything. But all of a sudden a planer shows up on the beach eight hundred thousand pounds

Karen Brewster: What's a planer what do you mean?

Fred Hosford: For taking lumber and smoothing it

Kathy Hosford: and somebody said we might want it. So Fred looked at it and you *** army or

Fred Hosford: I thought maybe White Pass threw it away.

Kathy Hosford: Not thinking about his own history but Tommy Mason who was a young man at the time and was working here for Ed logging. He said, "Let me tell you about that planer". And he said they were taking it over the West Creek Bridge and the truck tipped and flipped that thing off into the river and they never recovered that and it was apparently one of the few new things that they had for the saw mill. Lo and behold a couple years ago his sister sent down a box of their mom's stuff and we find a receipt for that planer brand new and where did he get it out of a place in Juneau

Fred Hosford: Juneau, for 1800 dollars

Kathy Hosford: that was a lot of money back then, you know

Fred Hosford: Today I have the old planer sitting out in the yard with all the old stuff sitting on it.

Kathy Hosford: All the goodies that he has. All the stuff on this property that we found we kind of planted it cause it was kind of cool and had some kind of special meaning but now I think people think we're the keeper of old things with the Park [] and I've got to find a place to put the junk. I love the way they say all the artifacts don't touch them I consider garbage because if it had any use we would have taken it a long time ago. So I mean it's fun because everything has a story behind it and how it got there.

Karen Brewster: Yes it does. You know I'm curious to hear more about the sawmill. What it was like growing up there, you said there were kids and the sawmill.

Fred Hosford: There that I remember you know that they'd clean the logs and they'd take it up before they'd cut it. And a lot of families from Skagway would come out there and we'd jump in the log pond, jump on the logs, go swimming. We had lots of company up there because there was no place to go in Skagway and people go to Dyea, they'd would drive up and see the sawmill . And a lot of volunteers come up there and my dad cut all the logs for the V*** in Skagway and had volunteer labor come in. I believe as you go back to town there is a big cabin that sitting in Long Bay and it belongs to the Reed family today, and those logs come from up at the mill

Karen Brewster: So there were big trees up there where your dad built the mill?

Fred Hosford: Yes and we had some pretty nice trees up West Creek too but in this valley the trees don't grow very tall compared to what you see in St. Petersburg, Sitka [] up the West Creek valley and we didn't get the volume of trees that we were expected.

Kathy Hosford: Did you ever find out why Amal Hanousek []from this sawmill? We have pictures of him with his old truck filling it with sawdust. What he used it for?

Fred Hosford: Yah, I don't know what he used it for, probably their gardens and everything. You'd have to move it from the pile so it wouldn't get so big I mean he was trucking it out of there. []

Karen Brewster: Yah it's interesting when you think of it a sawmill produces a lot of sawdust, what do you do all that?

Fred Hosford: Well there's still a big pile of it up there today if you go back there in the woods. The sawdust is still there. And we would put it in big piles and took a dozer and spread it out farther. Some people would come and haul it off and put it on their gardens or whatever. []

Kathy Hosford: The pollen gets me a tickle in my throat. I've got a lozenge for it.

Karen Brewster: Yah,

Kathy Hosford: Lots of pollen. But finding out more and more history about this valley just since we've come back in ten years is just really exciting. Cause we just, I used to hate it out here when we first got married. It was the middle of nowhere and (ha ha) you talk about no electricity no nothing it wasn't that long ago that there was no access. Even building this property we had to borrow a light plant and we had an old shack with a wood stove in it and all the workers would dry their gloves in there. And miserable weather. All the logs showed up in the middle of winter when they were supposed to come in the summer. And all my I had two feet of snow on all the decks around here. It was a nightmare. It took a lot to get this thing accomplished. I think it molded twice. We had to sand down every inch []

Karen Brewster: And Kathy what is your history? You're not from this area originally.

Kathy Hosford: My history is my father, is my father moved his family out of the Washington state, um just for a little bit more elbow room. That's what was written in a couple books. He moved us, he had a fishing boat and he came up in 1966 or '67 I can't remember exactly but I was eight or nine. I remember [] our dad selling king crabs on the dock and I think our boat broke down in Petersburg and there we stayed. And so I grew up and my dad and mom would take me out of school early and we would go out. We were trawlers. I fished with them until I was I think about 16 years-old. I was probably the only girl out at the fishing grounds. That's why my arms are so big, throwing fish and cleaning up. Um, we fished in all the small areas and then I married Fred I guess. And after I had one year of college behind my belt but and then after that, what did we do? We came up here. I got on the railroad and worked with you. And the railroad closed and the economy was such and we had to move out and we, he [] on the pipeline my mother had a restaurant in Petersburg so I'd go back in the winter and work for her a little bit.

Fred Hosford: We met some real nice people from the Yukon Keith Barrum and his wife Gwen. And they picked up lots of jobs in Alaska and they employed Kathy and myself and some of our brothers worked for them

Karen Brewster: Is that the construction?

Fred Hosford: Yes, Keith Barrum he owns Pelley Construction, but he has another Alaskan Corporation called [] and he really treated our family really good.

Kathy Hosford: Un-huh, that's where I learned to be a heavy equipment operator and my dad had smaller equipment and I learned to [] and on the railroad. I learned to run some of that when I was working on the railroad as a shop laborer. But I was an apprentice with Klondike Construction so we're both retired out of the Operating Engineer's now.

Karen Brewster: and you worked on the Alaska Haul Road or the pipeline or something?

Fred Hosford: We

Kathy Hosford: We

Fred Hosford: [] lots of jobs all over Alaska and Kathy and I worked for a guy named Don McGill who really treated us good.

Kathy Hosford: And that took us from, to the Girdwood area. We had twenty miles of road there and then that was a couple year job and then it took us down to Prince of Wales Holus and Hydaburg and {} for a couple of years

Fred Hosford: A couple years on the Taylor Highway

Kathy Hosford: And Chicken, a couple years there. And then the company had a job in Antarctica and my children had already been in about twenty schools [] so I bought a house in Fairbanks and he'd gotten on the North Slope and so did I. I was an equipment coordinator. I didn't run equipment up there, but since I knew equipment I coordinated all the maintenance and stuff in the mechanics shop. And we pretty much did that gig for a long time. And when our children were graduated and everything we wondered what we were going to do [] and wound up buying this property. And you've got the rest of the story. And this is eleven years now. On this piece of property and we take a lot of pride in it. So my history pretty much doing whatever we needed to do to get by.

Karen Brewster: Now how did you two meet? And end up getting married.

Fred Hosford: Actually I met her mother at a hotel she was [] there and I met her and she told me to stop by someday and meet her family and everything. So I did. So we

Kathy Hosford: We became very good friends, the family did. Um I was a bit younger at that time but my sister Sue who was just graduating from high school, fell for his brother and they got married and started a family. And Fred was always so kind and so (ha ha) [] and get married five years later. And I don't know what year we're celebrating for our anniversary but quite a bit in the thirties or something.

Fred Hosford: Yah, at least thirty years, yah

Kathy Hosford: Yah since '76

Karen Brewster: So you were in Petersburg logging?

Fred Hosford: Logging yes, in a place called Thomas Bay

Kathy Hosford: And my dad run tug for them and so they families got tied together pretty good there and you know Alaska which you likely do you know small towns it is always nice to see new people come to town.

Karen Brewster: []

Kathy Hosford: Oh yeah, yeah

Fred Hosford: We run two camps down there. One was in Thomas Bay that my father run and I had a brother named Pete and he ran a camp over in Eliza Harbor. So we moved a lot of wood.

Karen Brewster: So you guys have moved around a lot and been to a lot of places

Fred Hosford: Yes

Kathy Hosford: It's neat when people say I'm from Alaska and they say Haines or Skagway or a little bit territorial it can't be if you really live [] because of economics and how we're made up. We're the pioneer style, whatever we got to do the next day we do whether it be in Girdwood or Prince of Wales or wherever. We say we're from Alaska currently residing in Dyea.

Karen Brewster: Alright how did you manage to raise a family with all that moving around and those jobs.

Kathy Hosford: Just get'er done day to day. [] some of the people that helped babysit for me to this day are very close family friends

Karen Brewster: How many children do you have?

Kathy Hosford: We have two, we have a son and a daughter and they were raised here in Skagway until they railroad closed and we took off right about the time they started school. So they kind of got drug around the country. Both very successful young people, very proud of them. Um, but [] kids in the school from kindergarten to grade twelve you know and Chicken that was a little different story, we did a some self tutoring, and I actually had a nanny for a while who was a shirt tail relative that stayed a lot with our kids. When we worked on the North Slope we always worked opposite schedules so either Fred was home or I was home. So it didn't matter how much we wanted to get our schedules a little bit coordinated it just wasn't [] most everywhere until we landed in Fairbanks and then we kind of settled in for at least a decade and got them raised and taken care of. And our son lives here today and drives truck for the local fuel company and he's married and expecting. And our daughter's very successful living in Seattle. Our biggest export in this state is our children. Educate them and they have to go away. It's kind of sad. But she has a couple kids, a couple grandkids.

Fred Hosford: Yah, she met a young man [] really treated her good and they got married. And two grandbabies. So ...

Kathy Hosford: Built me a little hacienda on top of their garage so it's really hard not to stop in and spend a little time. You know you never feel like you're imposing and we're pretty blessed that way.

Karen Brewster: Well a question back about the history of Dyea. How did the gold rush people, how did they get here, now we come on this road ? [] get them here to startup the Chilkoot Trail.

Fred Hosford: Steamships

Kathy Hosford: Steamships would get them into the Skagway Harbor or you'll see some of the pictures in some of the books. There are so many pictures books that you're just in awe about. And they would have little landing barges so far out and then the barges would bring them in or a small boat that wouldn't draw too much water and bring them onto the beach. The hard part and you've read some of the stories [] and they'd get here and have it put on the beach and then when the tide comes in then it goes quick you can uncover a mile of land in just six hours you know just as the tide goes out. So they would lose a lot of their goods when the tide would come in and stuff. But that's where the local Native people would come in, the people who had the money to hire them to take their stuff to the community. They did, to get from Skagway I [] had the smaller boats bring them in here.

Karen Brewster: It just because it's just too shallow. This is a huge tidal []

Kathy Hosford: It is and it's glacier uplift also so it's a lot more land you're seeing now than there was a hundred years ago. I mean we're gaining real estate. I mean even kids who grew up here can't remember seeing that much land out there. I think it's I don't know if it's a full inch each year or not but definitely it has come up a lot but still [] that's probably how they did most of it but even now but how they did they navigating without getting stuck in the silt and stuff is beyond me. But um, they had intended to build a two-mile pier to get to deep water and that was a hundred years ago. So they started building it from the beach out and then there was a gap and I think they started building it from further out. And I don't think that they ever connected.

Karen Brewster: They never completed it

Kathy Hosford: No the pier was never completed. Um, I think I even have a picture of the pier down there so ... pretty much you know that's how they would get out here. They had no other avenues to get here... Here is the picture of the pier

Karen Brewster: I'll have you hold it and she can zoom in on the pictures.

Kathy Hosford: Here is the pier today and here is the pier a hundred years ago

Karen Brewster: Wow

Kathy Hosford: I love showing this to people when they come in. They understand the gold rush happened a lot out here but when you show them this picture, I wish the Park Service shared this picture with people more often because it is so hard to conceive with the road being here and us being about here (to the left of the photo) it's the beautiful flat with hardly anything on it and I'll repeat 48 hotels and 47 restaurants and 39 taverns and this is what you see out there now. It's just mind boggling.

Karen Brewster: I didn't realize that the town of Dyea had been built on the flats. You would have thought it would have been built up here up

Kathy Hosford: Where the trees are shorter it's pretty much in that area [] but it would come up all the way to that end of it. And I think that you see a lot of trees in this area that

Karen Brewster: they are grown in

Kathy Hosford: That have grown in and of course the beach has been extended with the glacial uplift and kind of gaining real estate is one way of putting it, beach property, how about that.

Fred Hosford: The Park Service does a real interpretive []. The Rangers walk out here and they show everybody where the old [] were and stuff and of course everything was on the other side of this river, kind of pointing out where all the buildings were. The town wasn't just on the beach it was

Karen Brewster: []

Kathy Hosford: Here's a collage my daughter put together, here's up at the sawmill. Here's their dad with all the kids up at the sawmill. He's got the goofy look on his face. He was the second oldest Hosford kid.

Karen Brewster: One sister and

Fred Hosford: Four boys

Karen Brewster: and four boys

Fred Hosford: Yah

Kathy Hosford: And there's a lot of wild stories about Hosfords. I don't know if you've heard much. But here's Ed back with

Karen Brewster: with his saxophone

Kathy Hosford: With his saxophone. Ginger was very short. She was four foot nine. That was his mother standing next to, I don't know what that is. It is a caterpillar or something I see that.

Fred Hosford: It is the generator for the saw mill

Kathy Hosford: for the saw mill, we have tons of pictures and Karl Gurke is going to sometimes come and scan a lot of them and get a little bit more of the history of it. This is interesting, the *Oh Canada* you don't hear very much about, the old ship that was the steamship company that came during the gold rush. And it burned and they towed it into long bay, that beautiful bay that you come into, but they towed it in and left it on the beach. But there's [] burn down all of Long Bay

Karen Brewster: It caused that?

Kathy Hosford: Not the boat didn't cause that, I don't mean to confuse that but the picture shows no trees and it is really forested now. But this old boat the *Oh Canada* got drug on the beach and for years Skagway people could see it on the beach and it slowly disintegrated. Now when the tide is all the way out you see barely a rim on the base [] Carl Dieter took it upon himself to cut pieces of that Oh Canada off of her and we have a big hunk of her on our deck

Karen Brewster: that picture with the trees, was that logged or []

Kathy Hosford: (Shook head no.) It had been burnt according to Carl Dieter. In fact I have a little history sheet on the Long Bay issue and I was going to read it the other day and have that history fresh in my mind but I didn't get to it. But as you can see it doesn't look the same

Karen Brewster: []

Kathy Hosford: the telegraph line across from Skagway it was []

Karen Brewster: So forest fires are not very common?

Kathy Hosford: No not at all. Um, because I believe that um all the people of Skagway for decades have come to Dyea to cut the downed wood for firewood. They're not allowed to do that in [] have a tinder box in the park because you know the spruce trees, the dead ones come down. There were fires at the turn of the century. There was one up here where a cabin burnt down. Um, but mostly underbrush and stuff is really well taken care of. Or at least it had been. Things have changed recently. Some other things about Dyea that a lot of people find a little bit remarkable fish returns that we have out here and the bear population [] you could talk to Anita, or Mrs. Haskins, Ada Haskins, any of the old timers, people that grew up out here you [] a bear out here, occasionally a black bear, brownies were almost pretty much unheard of. Now we have this huge bear population out here so you have to kind of think. People say this is their habitat, but it never was before, but when you think about the Borough Creek Hatchery and [] starting about thirty years ago has increased the return of salmon in these valleys remarkably because salmon typically don't like the silty waters. So you see very little return, and now you see them bubbling up the river. And so that was kind of a man made issue, I think with the bears. We haven't seen too many this year but the last seven or eight years, everyday two or three bears going up and down the road [] it is kind of creepy they habituate to people and that's when you have to be worried

Fred Hosford: Way back then people were shooting bears for survival too. You don't see much of that anymore. Now today people want to run to McDonald's for something to eat

Karen Brewster: So yes when you were growing up out here were you living off of bear and

Fred Hosford: We ate bear, yes, yah lots of other people did too. Natives used the hides

Karen Brewster: Were there other animals out here that you could survive off of?

Fred Hosford: Goat, there's goat,[] the last few years we've seen an occasional moose out here but never when I was younger.

Kathy Hosford: Hoofed animals to come over the habitat isn't because you've got all the rocky ledges and stuff. That's how goat, we see a lot of wolves

Fred Hosford: Coyote,

Kathy Hosford: Coyotes, porcupine,

Fred Hosford: Beaver

Kathy Hosford: Beaver

Karen Brewster: So your dad would go bear hunting

Fred Hosford: Yes and goat, he actually rescued a goat one time up the mountain was trying to raise it but the game came in and took it. That was one of our pets for a while.

Kathy Hosford: In the Southeast we could do that. We had a seal for our children's pet once.

Karen Brewster: Oh really

Kathy Hosford: It had gotten abandoned on the beach down there at Hollis that the mother had left it. And we kept calling Fish and Game and we had it in the bathtub and we were feeding it. And we called it Lucky, Lucky Leroy. Fish and Game they never were able to come and get it. My Brother Mike raised a bear Toughy went to the Anchorage zoo for years and I think it finally passed. It was under a root wad and the sow got killed so they got to keep the bear for about three months and you know nurse it until it got too big to handle and then Fish and Game finally took it away. Things have changed a lot though you know, you don't want to get caught with a wild animal on your property now cause it could be in big trouble with Fish and Game or whatever.

Karen Brewster: Other things about the history of Dyea that I know you haven't talked about. I know it is important for you to make sure this history is known and

Kathy Hosford: It is. It really is.

Karen Brewster: [] important part of the Skagway story.

Kathy Hosford: Well what really means a lot to me to understand how significant Dyea was 'cause so many people don't really get that. Because they come to Skagway and they think they've been to where the gold rush occurred and out here it was just amazing. And I told you a little bit about the road because people just assume that it just got there. And it was just kind of pieced together without any [] or any program to get it here, even the bridge, we have historians come and talk about how did that bridge get here. That's another story, but roads that people drive on, people think that roads just appear. Somebody had to build them, had to pioneer them, to make like the West Creek, like his Dad building the first bridge across West Creek and the two miles up the West Creek mountain. That's a part of the living Dyea history. You know [] putting Dyea back on the map has been a quest of mine, of course I have a business out here now, but it is just amazing how much of that history kind of been tucked away. I'm sure it's out there, the pictures, the documentation it was just that so little of it was done after the gold rush that it is hard to piece together. I don't know what else I, I just know what I keep learning [] and the different things like that. Wasn't there a native settlement up here one time?

Fred Hosford: On the beach up on the hill.

Kathy Hosford: Unhuh

Fred Hosford: They always built up high, the Natives, they were a little leery of water so they'd always go to the high ground. We have a family, a lady that is getting up there, Barbara Kalen, she's got a lot of history. She has family or property half way out here. []

Kathy Hosford: property yah

Karen Brewster: So there are a lot of ties back and forth between Skagway and Dyea.

Kathy Hosford: Yah, you get a community that has so few people that it's kind of hard sometimes you don't want to make all those ties but it's kind of like if you're in Barrow for a long time. It is amazing how small a town Alaska is. It is amazing how many people [] grandfather went over the trail at Dyea. A couple of significant people that I have heard went over or came over to Dyea was Donald Trumps' great-grandfather and Nordstrom he made a few bucks out here to start his shoe store in Seattle. Um, so I know once everything was built the people of Dyea didn't want to leave this valley. And they did lots of things trying to endorse, communicate that there was [] but that railroad got built and just the dwindling desire to explore anymore, and things just picked up probably in the lower '48 and everyone picked up and took off, like the Hosfords finally leaving on a steam ship you know back at the early part of the century.

Karen Brewster: Yeah you said that you think you figured out that your Hosford family history was here before the gold rush and then your dad

Fred Hosford: He must have heard about it [] this is where he wanted to come explore so he came to Alaska a fairly young man and never went back.

Kathy Hosford: if his dad was more of a person that was more literate he probably would have been more free with his history but he was a doer. He was out in the woods doing things, doing things that people still are having, you know what made that kid come up here and do that? So he, he didn't express his story [] and these, us as kids either I didn't ask my parents questions either, and then you're a little bit sorry that you didn't do a little bit more documenting along the way. One of the things about Dyea history is old Paul Jones that lived on this property for thirty years is one of biggest liars this side of the Northern hemisphere. He could tell whoppers like you wouldn't believe it. People believed it, he convince people he was a NFL coach or he was a jet fighter for the Air Force or [] dreamt up a lot of that stuff. But ironically when history was being gathered we have a copy of an Alaskan Geographic that has him being interviewed in there and he talks about being a jet fighter and he talks about wrestling bears in there or whatever. I don't know. But sometimes you don't get the whole story. So

Fred Hosford: Yah he was a nice ole' boy.

Kathy Hosford: Yah. He lived on this property and burnt his cabin down

Fred Hosford: Accidentally

Kathy Hosford: Accidentally and then this went into an estate and it was a mess and nobody wanted it and Fred and I were the takers so that's how we ended up buying it.

Karen Brewster: And Fred I was wondering about your mom? Okay. And how she managed out here and how she came up?

Fred Hosford: My father called for her. They were high school friends and he had her come from New York and [] skip and took her over to the beach to Al Nelson's house. That is where old Al lived. Yah it was a lot harder in those days. There was no automatic dishwashers or washing machines, all the clothes were washed by hand out at the mill.

Kathy Hosford: You didn't even have running water

Fred Hosford: No running water

Kathy Hosford: Just buckets

Karen Brewster: And she managed all right?

Fred Hosford: Oh she was

END OF DISK ONE

DISK TWO

Kathy Hosford: I was kind of dating Fred about that time, and we came back from Europe and we went our own way. And Gale went her way and continued to go to school and college, got her Masters [] got her law degree, High end Lawyer, she's on the Board of Director's for ah, the Native Association and I think she runs CIRI. So her life's gone a whole different way and um, she got married two or three times but she's still, Sean Parnell and her have worked together, I mean they're very good friends. With that being said, we connected after about twenty years being apart and I was telling her about my children and my grand-children and our little Outpost, and here I am so envious of how much education she pursued and here she perceives my to be the perfect life, and I perceived hers to be a perfect life. And I said you know we should write a story sometime as two young ladies from Alaska, her being of Eskimo descent and me being well, Swedish and Ukrainian, we came to Petersburg which is often times referred to as little Norway. And my cad corrected [] at our local store as Erickson "son" not "sen" they cut off his credit. They realized that we weren't Norwegian. My dad was a character ...

Karen Brewster: I was going to ask what your maiden name was Erickson.

Kathy Hosford: Erickson, yes my parents are both buried in Petersburg and I small gorgeous town to grow up in, very Scandinavian and we still have lots of friends and stuff down there. Wish we had better transportation in southeast, we would make a few more trips but it's a little difficult to do under the circumstances. Yah, [] my dad was a renowned character in the southeast too. There wasn't nothing he couldn't do. He had a sixth grade education up north you know for a better life and remarkably we all turned out okay and are pretty happy with everything. But that is hard work a little honesty and elbow grease and you pretty much get the attitude don't tell me I can't do that. When I started this project out here, something that you may not know was Fred wasn't here. I pretty much was the architect and

engineer and contractor and I had a lot of good people coming out to give me a hand. Pretty much anybody who could swing a hammer at Mo's got invited out and I'd make them soup or something. Cause this project was so huge you'd wonder what you'd get yourself into you know trying to get electricians and all that kind of stuff.

Fred Hosford: I was on the pipeline working.

Kathy Hosford: Yah you can't get a loan from the bank if you're not working. So we kept [] and he did come back and was very instrumental in the clearing and that kind of stuff, and helping with different things. But I look at this project as our legacy. You know when we built the Chilkoot Trail Outpost it kind of helped put Dyea on the map, there was no phone at the campgrounds there was no intent to really do things but this is a National Park, people are going to come here. So I have worked so hard lobbying for the road projects and I don't let up, because if you don't things don't get done. [] It was more exciting the day we heard that we got the energy grant and Bob Grimm with Alaska Power and telephone every time he sees me he gives me a big hug. Because Haines, Mud Bay and us out here would never have gotten electricity, not enough residents!

Fred Hosford: Everybody in Dyea that wants electricity has it today!

Karen Brewster: There are some people who choose not to have it?

Fred Hosford: Yes there is one [] across West Creek Ridge that could have had electricity and they said they didn't want it at the time. I think that they're a little sorry now that they didn't

Kathy Hosford: We host all the telephone, electricity in Dyea valley right out there in my yard here. You know you had to be willing to give up stuff out here because the power company didn't own land out here so we gave them an easement to make that happen. And now I we kind of enjoy about all the amenities that you would in any other, I love it when people hear we have cabins and say, "Do you have running water?" that and more! And I can't wait to give you a little cabin tour before you leave and hope you're interested in seeing that.

Karen Brewster: Yah, and Fred when you were growing up out here obviously getting into town was a big expedition. There was a road at this point?

Fred Hosford: Yah

Kathy Hosford: '48 the road was completed I think, '46 the road dropped down in the valley it was roughed in and he was born until '49 and his dad was already had built the sawmill by that time?

Fred Hosford: Yes

Kathy Hosford: And the kids were pretty much born in town, drug out here and raised between the two places.

Karen Brewster: So how did you guys go back and forth, if you had to go into town for supplies or something?

Fred Hosford: Yah we'd take lumber to town, we had a big truck to haul lumber to town.

Karen Brewster: What was the road condition like?

Fred Hosford: I can show you a picture later on it was very muddy and not as wide as it is today.

Kathy Hosford: Single lane

Fred Hosford: Yes single lane

Kathy Hosford: Even when my logs for this building came out some of the wheels of the semi on that last corner up there barely made it cause you can't make those big turns to come out here.

Fred Hosford: Yah, we still need some improvements on that road

Kathy Hosford: We've come a long ways though

Fred Hosford: Yah

Karen Brewster: When your father put the sawmill in three miles up the trail, how did he, did he have a cat and just plow down and make a road?

Fred Hosford: Yah he bought a dozer. Before that they just went up there with sleds and brushed it out. And I have pictures of some of the guys before they could afford chainsaws they were cutting the trees with axes and you know to build a cabin and get going.

Kathy Hosford: There is one picture of lots of people helping Ed build the cabin up the trail and they got like three rows of logs up and they've got a big barrel stove and they're all sitting around having drinks and food and there's no house there yet. (ha ha)

Fred Hosford: No roof or (ha ha)

Karen Brewster: []

Fred Hosford: Yep (ha ha)

Kathy Hosford: They had two cabins, one that your folks slept in, one that you kids slept in and the other one. If you go up there to this day you see one collapsed with little spring beds and stuff in there and

Fred Hosford: And there's a picture of it right behind me there.

Kathy Hosford: Yah, you mean in the other room, oh you mean right there. Oh there it is.

Fred Hosford: This in front of the first cabin that was ever up at the saw mill there. (shows framed photo). Those look like some real characters there.

Karen Brewster: Yah, and those were guys who worked for your Dad?

Fred Hosford: Yah, well that lady is trying to get paid, got the rifle on my father there. (ha ha)

Kathy Hosford: (ha ha)

Karen Brewster: They were having fun.

Kathy Hosford: That history goes way back, they didn't have a lot of money but you talk to people in town and even Dee Mason who is 97 this year she tells a story of when her son was shot and somehow was able to wrestle up 2000 dollars which is so much money, so much money. They never forget that. I mean the Hosford kids like myself grew up pretty poor but you are really rich in your trading material, you know what you do for somebody else they'll do for you type thing. I can I tell the dentist story?

Fred Hosford: (ha ha) Oh mother ...

Kathy Hosford: (ha ha) These kids have some good stories they just crack you up. Every time we'd go visit one of the old timers that used to work for his dad they'd tell a new story. He can't remember this, they'd come home and light their wood stoves and it would smell like urine. The kids would get up on the stove [] There were lots of stories like that. You're turning red.

Karen Brewster: but that was [] family living out in the woods

Kathy Hosford: Yah and what you did for entertainment was probably you hoped it was isolated, not politically correct in any circles I always ... with Fred I say to him I can take him out of Dyea but you can't take Dyea out of him. I wish he would tell you some of the stories [] reserve himself for that. Um, but they had a pretty good upbringing that you want to show them of the bridge or anything?

Fred Hosford: Yah we have lots of pictures

Kathy Hosford: We don't want to bore you to death.

Karen Brewster: The bridge that your Dad built that was this one, it was the first one out here, you said this bridge out here on the Taiya River?

Kathy Hosford: This one here was built by the territory.

Karen Brewster: Okay, Morgan Reed was the Legislator and his house was halfway out here and he was good friends [] Engstrom, I think his name was

Fred Hosford: Elton Engstrom

Kathy Hosford: Elton Engstrom and apparently it was a surplus bridge and they brought it up to Skagway and put it in here. And this was amazing because they put in after the war. There was no reason but they just wanted to get a nice bridge across the Taiya River. But the first bridge that went across the Taiya River was from the Dyea flats, you go up to where Lorna lived? No you go up to where the raft put out and that's as far as our road goes so Ed put a bridge across []

Karen Brewster: []

Kathy Hosford: Okay it's the second bridge up here, it's not the original, that's a nice one now, I think he built two of them, you get across the West Creek and you drive a little bit more and he built another bridge across the Taiya River and so that was the first crossing of the Taiya River and then they came in and put up this nice one. He worked on this bridge; we've got pictures of him working on this one. So pretty instrumental in the whole history of Dyea [] you could say. Which I'm hopeful that kind of should be on record the roads and stuff that so many people take for granted that hard working, pioneer determined to get it done and

Karen Brewster: Yes that is why I had asked how your dad had put in the road up to the saw mill

Fred Hosford: Yah he finally bought a small D4 dozer cleared the logs and took them back to the saw mill and used them for lumber [] as he built

Kathy Hosford: and to this day it is still pretty clear, it is a beautiful trail. It looks as if it's just a park trail that you go up but it is indeed a road and if you get up towards the saw mill and you get out from there you see silhouettes of old logging trucks covered with moss. I mean it's really pretty remarkable

Fred Hosford: Yes but the Park does quite a bit of work on that trail up there, they keep it

Karen Brewster: Yes but when the sawmill closed you just left everything up there?

Fred Hosford: Pretty much except for the equipment he bought into another saw mill [] so he took most of his equipment over to Haines and we had a mill over there. And years later it caught fire and that was the end of that mill.

Karen Brewster: Why did he close the mill here?

Fred Hosford: He said the market wasn't that good in Skagway and the timber sales were hard to get. And there was a bigger company in Haines that wanted to sell out and so he went over there; And by then he had other markets in Canada and he'd haul lumber into Canada and [] from there he had everything export companies, import companies, logging companies

Karen Brewster: So he did fairly well in the logging business?

Fred Hosford: Logging, there wasn't a whole lot of money in our logging days. In our later years he got into the export company where he sold lumber to Japan, China, Korea, Canada. He made some money there but logging days []

Karen Brewster: Well as Kathy said you grew up out in the woods with not a lot there probably, a hard life.

Fred Hosford: Yah it was different.

Karen Brewster: What did you guys do for entertainment? Now a days we have TV, video radio. What did you guys do?

Fred Hosford: I remember father being a musician. He made all of us bring instruments home so he could practice but yah, a radio was a big thing back in the days

Karen Brewster: You had radio?

Fred Hosford: (nodded yes)

Karen Brewster: What instrument did you play?

Fred Hosford: Ah, I was trying to learn how to play drums. I know one of my brothers brought a saxophone home, one brought a trumpet home, I believe my sister brought a clarinet

Kathy Hosford: And Ed was talented on all those.

Fred Hosford: We all did a lot of outdoors stuff together you know. We all went out and cut fire wood. And my father taught us at a young age to work with him, logging. We all ran equipment at a very young age, yah.

Karen Brewster: And how were you, you talked about equipment, how were you going out and getting the trees if chainsaws weren't in use yet?

Fred Hosford: When I started being able to help him we definitely had chainsaws.

Karen Brewster: Oh that's right that was in the sixties

Fred Hosford: We had pictures where they were using the ole' crosscut saws, you know, two men pulling on the old cross cut and even before that they were using axes to cut logs for the cabin.

Karen Brewster: And they were using small cats [] back to the mill

Fred Hosford: Yah back to the mill, D4 tractor back to the mill. Her father has, gave us another dozer just like it, a D4 setting out in our yard today.

Kathy Hosford: [] said oh that's really old, and I said it runs they fire it up and run it around here just like that old truck out here. It brings back the memories.

Fred Hosford: Yah

Kathy Hosford: Yes it would have been nice, it would have great if Ed would have homesteaded like everybody [] or even a home site but again he was very generous with his time and everything and help other people secure their lots and stuff and Indian Land Claims and stuff. Um

Fred Hosford: Yah, he helped some Native families here get their land surveyed that weren't able to do it. He was in a good position where he had a forester working for him and he sent the forester up there to help the Natives []

Karen Brewster: [] surveyor?

Fred Hosford: Nope but he sent a guy to help the Natives

Kathy Hosford: that was working for him

Karen Brewster: So the saw mill and your cabin up there that wasn't property that he owned?

Fred Hosford: No that was state land. And today I believe that belongs to the Mahle Family in town here. Andy Mahle was partners with my Father in different businesses. And Andy Mahle filed a 160 acre land claim up there on the Chilkoot Trail and I believe today it belongs to [] Skagway.

Kathy Hosford: That was the forester that your dad sent up to help him get that stake out, which was good.

Fred Hosford: un-huh

Karen Brewster: It is interesting with your dad, that the state allowed him to log there but he didn't own the property.

Fred Hosford: Well that's like that anywhere. Myself, personally I could ask the state to give me a timber sale up here in the valley here today for permit to go cut to build a log cabin. They'll give people a permit, and you pay so much for your logs [] It was just a lease so much per year to use the property and then so much for the timber that you cut.

Karen Brewster: Right. So how many homesteads are there out here now in Dyea

Kathy Hosford: Homesteads I believe there were only five. If I'm not mistaken, I'd have to recount them. Um,

Fred Hosford: What happened was 160-acres that Patterson had out here, he subdivided and sold to a lot of people and there's a quite a few people living out here

Kathy Hosford: We bought most of that land

Fred Hosford: quite a few people living out here because of the subdivision that was done but the actual home site there is very few you know the Hanousek property had some, Kalen.

Kathy Hosford: Pullen's was huge, Pullen she homesteaded the entire Dyea Valley and they just donated that back?

Fred Hosford: I'm not real sure

Kathy Hosford: I don't know how that happened. [] was one of the homesteaders out here.

Fred Hosford: We bought their timber also.

Kathy Hosford: I can't, I think ... I know of home sites along the Dyea road, Matthews' was it a homestead or a home site. It is really tricky in there.

Karen Brewster: Why don't you explain the difference between a home site and a homestead.

Kathy Hosford: A homesteads people were allowed to file for 160-acres of land and it had to meet certain criteria like [] developing for cultural like Malcolm Moriarty had gardens here with raising birds. You had to do something on it in order to do that. I think it was in 1948, and forgive me if my years are wrong, the Federal government changed from the Homestead Act to the home site. Homesteads were no longer allowed. Home sites if you could prove up on the property you could stake out five acres. So you went from the ability to stake 160 [] and then limited it to five acre parcels. So the Homestead and Home site Acts changed that dramatically. Five Acres is plenty of land for anybody but you could no longer prove up on the 160 acres and get entitlement on it.

Karen Brewster: On the five acres you still had to prove up on it

Kathy Hosford: Yes

Karen Brewster: And use it for very specific things

Kathy Hosford: un-huh and Malcolm Mo I have correspondence from him all the way back from the '40s to the '60s but he [] this piece of property until 1958 or something. It took him forever to get the entitlement because a document of two got lost when he first homesteaded and without that proof the territorial government didn't have record of it. He was unable to keep that property.