

H75-04

Heinie Snider

Wasilla, Alaska

1965

Anne Dimond Reilly, interviewer.

Re: his history with Anthony Dimond

Heinie Snider talks about his first meeting with Anthony Dimond in 1911-1912. Anthony was a commissioner and acting judge in a bootleg case. Chancey Peterson was accused of selling liquor without a license in the Chisana area. The trial was in a roadhouse belonging to Honest Miller. After the trial Heinie went to talk to the judge and that was how they became friends.

Heinie worked for Henshaw who had taken a lease on the property at Chisana. It was said to be discovered by Washboard Johnson. The real discoverer of the property was Indian Jim.

Heinie said that he and Anthony Dimond were of opposing political thought. They never would talk about religion. He talks about the time when Anthony was a delegate to Congress and Heinie was a senator of the third division. Heinie was still working for the Alaska Road Commission. He was working on the Matanuska River and was a bit dirty from working on an engine. He heard an automobile and saw someone waving. It was Anthony Dimond. Anthony introduced Heinie to the people in the car. One of the women said it must not take much to be a senator in Alaska.

Anthony used to limp because of an old injury to his leg. Anthony told Heinie about one of his daughters who had become a nun. When they were older Heinie wanted to give Anthony a lot on Lake Lucille to build a cabin. Anthony said he was the judge and didn't want to just leave his job. One time before Heinie left for the Republican convention Anthony talked to Heinie about not voting for Taft but choosing Eisenhower instead. Heinie worked on the railroad on Fort Richardson during the war. Anthony helped him out on some legal problems.

Heinie talked about writing another book about pioneers. He talks about his homestead on Lake Lucille. He donated property for the Pioneers of Alaska to put up a building. Heinie talked about being in Wasilla in the mid-1920s. He met with Anthony on the railroad track into town. Anthony had come all the way up to see Heinie to talk about a political candidate for the Territorial legislature.

In 1912-1913 Heinie was a woodcutter and would supply wood for the gold mine in Chisana. He would get \$45 dollars a cord. There was a good size gold mine with 42 men in the Chisana mine. The first pay was good but after the strike the miners went in themselves and found gold to pay themselves.

Heinie talks about "Jack the Ripper" who worked as a cook at the mine. The "Russian Kid" also worked there who later robbed a train in Canada and went to jail for fifteen years. "Stampede Mary" owned a restaurant in the Chisana region. Louie Schonborn owned a store. He was shot and Jimmy Kingston was accused of the murder. Frank Hoffman was the U.S. marshal in Chisana. He had a great sense of humor. Heinie talks about Wasilla being the headquarters of bootlegging. Some of the bootleggers were Moose Hank and Charlie Harris. Frank Hoffman didn't like arresting them but he would

when someone informed on them. Heinie said Frank and Anthony Dimond were very good friends.

Heinie talks about a prospecting trip that he and Anthony Dimond took to look for gold. . Heinie had found a little prospect on Granite Creek in 1913. It was right before WWI started. Anthony packed a horse and they took off. They didn't do a lot of prospecting but they did a lot of talking about politics.

Heine talks about being a member of the Alaska legislature. Gruening was governor of the state and a Democrat. A lot of Republicans wanted the position. Heinie asked Eisenhower in Chicago if he was going to give Alaska a governor from Alaska or someone else who does not know Alaska. Eisenhower said he would give Alaska a governor from Alaska and they shook hands on it. Heinie recalls meeting up with Anthony Diamond's son-in-law while he was in Juneau and talking about making Dimond governor. It was Tom Riley who is married to Anne.