

ANTOINETTE WOODS, Rampart

July 28, 1973

Mrs. Antoinette Mayo Roberts Woods was born May 24, 1894 in Old Station, about 25 miles downstream from Tanana. She is the daughter of Al Mayo who came to Alaska in 1873 with McQuestion, Ladue and Harper.

Mrs. Woods was married first to William Roberts, now deceased (quite a number of years ago...about 1930 or so). She later married _____ Woods who was a brother to Sally Woods Hudson (Used to be Sally Woods Evans).

Mrs. Woods mother's name was Margaret Snado. The Indian name of Snado means "next to me", Antoinette said. Roberts...Mrs. Woods first husband, was Welsh from the old country.

She has three daughters - two living in Oakland, Calif and one living in Glennallen, Calif. One son ~~xxxxxx~~ William Roberts lives in Fairbanks and another son John Roberts is in San Jose, Calif.

Antoinette said her father used to be called "Captain Mayo". She remembers Rampart as a big town after the strike on Minook Creek by Minook, a half breed Indian and Russian.

Antoinette had schooling through fourth or fifth grade and then there was no more school. She is one of 10 children of Al and Margaret Mayo....six brothers five sisters. One of Antoinette's sisters was an identical twin who died in Ft. Yukon in 1927.

Mayo's children surviving this date: Antoinette Woods, Lee Mayo of Fairbanks, Charles Mayo of Fairbanks and Florence Wiehl of Rampart.

House where I interviewed Mrs. Woods was built by man named Sam Heater. It is a handsome two storey house that is now owned by Mrs. Kitty Harwood. Heater was a teamster as best as I can determine. He had lots of horses and supplied grass and hay for other horses....also had a big, big barn.

Antoinette talks about the experimental farm across the river from the village of Rampart that was started by George Gasser.

Back to this house...Heater sold the house to colored man named Swanson. People in Rampart used to call him "Nigger Swanson". He was a big man over six feet tall. He had a wife in Rampart with him, also colored. Her mother also made her home there with them. Wife and mother-in-law of ~~xxxx~~ Swanson died in Rampart. Swanson used to mine on Hunter creek, the same property now owned and mined by Bill Carlo.

Antoinette and Bill Carlo (who had entered the conversation now) talked about the big sternwheelers that used to go by Rampart....how the City of Seattle froze in one winter and Nigger Swanson took passengers overland in his sleigh pulled by horses (took them to Fairbanks and Rampart was the guess).

Antoinette said only trip she ever took on big sternwheeler was one time when she went to Ft. Yukon when her twin sister was sick (and later died) She took trips on other types of boats, however. But she seldom traveled very far.

She said her father Al Mayo built a big hotel and had restaurant. He originally

had a trading post in Rampart but he sold out to the Northern Commercial co. Mayo never trapped or hunted, his daughter recalled...

Talked about Rex Beach's cabin that still stands today in Rampart...how tourists would pay Bill Carlo (a little boy then) to show ~~xxx~~ them to the cabin...how they would leave there initials somewhere....or take some barks for souvenir.

Antoinette was the unofficial midwife for Rampart for many, many years. She delivered about 75 babies and probably buried that many, too. She delivered Kitty Harwood's twins....quite a rarity in the village at the time and everybody in the village came to see the identical twins. Neither the mother nor the midwife knew that twins were on the way until birth. ~~First~~ First and last twins born in Rampart as of this date (coincidentally Bill Carlos's wife Polding had a set of twins 20 years ago in the Tnanana hospital...Cathy and Manny)...and still more coincidentally the next day we saw two 7 year old identical twins on the river bank. They were Mary and Mitsie Demientieff (sp???) from Holy Cross. They had come up to Rampart on the ~~Ramona~~ Ramona which pushed a ~~x~~ barge full of heavy equipment that Carlo and his sons were to use on a four mile road job for the state...road from Rampart up Minook Creek and which will eventually connect with an extension from Eureka (Manley Hot Springs way).