

REEL 2

Wilbur went to school in Fairbanks and Chatanika with Bob Bartlett (later delegate to Congress and the United States Senator from Alaska). He also went to School with Vide Bartlett (Gustad) in Chatanika.

Wilbur says he never worked for wages after the 1919 job with Bartlett. However, he worked for many different outfits using his horses and wagons in freighting operations. He and his brother did lots of road work with their horses. His first job as a youth in Fairbanks was picking potatoes for Mel Sabin.

He recalls more about his brother Walter carrying the mail. Also Burt Thorenson and Lowmis (spellings uncertain). More on freighting to miners. Worked for the Fairbanks Exploration Co. for three seasons (with his horses and equipment on contract basis). First season at Chatanika, then El Dorado Creek and then on the Davidson Ditch (1925-1927) Walter finally sold his teams and went into carpenter work which he followed in Fairbanks.

Talks about Circle in 1927. Mostly Indians living there. Nels Rasmuson was there freighting out of Circle. He died 1920 approximately. Nels went there about 1900. Had three daughters (Mrs. Ida Jewell married to Walter, Mrs. Elsie O'Leary and Mrs. Fred Powers). Rasmuson ran store in Circle 8 years or so.

In 1938 Wilbur started a ~~sq~~ sawmill operation. Mined on Harrison Creek and Gold Dust Creek and went broke three times. John Bolgen sold him the sawmill business. Hauled wood three or four years. Moved to Central about 1964.

Wilbur says he hauled all the pipe that Frank Leach of Circle Hot Springs needed for his hotel and hot springs development.