

EMMETT BOTHELO - Juneau

April 1974

REEL 1 (of 1)

Early accounts of the gold rush into the Klondike refer to "royalty" hiking the Chilkoot Trail and going into Dawson. That royal blood was Emmett Bothelo's father. Bothelo Sr. was the nephew of the King of Spain.

Tape opens with Botheloh telling interviewer Mike Dalton about his daughter visiting Spain and Portugal (April 1974) and getting the red carpet treatment by customs man when he discovered she is related to him as well as being a decendent of the king's family....from Alaska!

Emmett's father was a student at the University of Portugal. He and a friend, from aristocratic family, reviewed the circumstances, their lot in life and decided to chuck the royal life and head for America...according to Emmett.

The freind had a friend in Montana so they headed for Bute. Bothelo (Sr.) left Spain at the age of 19 and already spoke English (besides six others!) He met his future wife in Butte, married her there. He and wife went to Skagway in 1895. There they opened a bakery and resturant. They went on to Dawson in 1898. Bothelo carried his young son (Emmett was not born until 1900 in Dawson)...three year old son...on his back over the Chilkoot. That little boy was Frank Sylvester Bothelo. Emmett was bory on July 4, 1900 in Dawson.

The couple opened a bakery and resturant in Dawson and called it the Pioneers Inn. Ran that for four or five years. Then they went mining on Hunker Creek. Then on to Quartz Creek where Bothelo had acquired some property.

The Gugenheims came in with \$150,000 in gold dust and offered to buy out Bothelo. Mrs. Bothelo knew mining well since she grew up with it and her father was assistant superintendent of the mine for Anaconda in Montana (Butte). They would not sell any one of their 11 claims. Got into legal battles. Property still tied up (in 1974) in litigation.

Emmett and his mother went to Juneau in 1913. Father followed. He never went outside until 1948 when he went to Seattle. Too frightening so he came back after two days. In 1957 he went out again to Los Angeles for a couple days. Has been out since, however.

Emmett went to the Catholic school in Dawson. He attended school two years in Juneau and was injured so he took his remaining schooling at home.

He was married in 1948. He had built a home at Lena Point in 1939.

(more)

In Dawson the Bothelo home was only a block and a half from Robert Service's cabin. He remembers Service and how he read poetry to the children. Service like children. Service left during the war years, Emmett believes.

Emmett returned to Dawson in 1968 for the Discovery day celebration. George Black was a governor of the Yukon when Emmett was a child there.

Tells story about when his father was sick and in hospital in Dawson. His mother put her two small boys in a dog sled and mushed toward Dawson. They ran into a pack of 40 to 50 wolves. His brother had a 30-30 rifle and shot and shot, killing four or five wolves. Team kept going somehow. Roadhouse people heard howling and shooting so were on the lookout. Saw Mrs. Bothelo racing up with team and wolves nipping at her and kids and dog team. Roadhouse operators opened doors wide and Mrs. Bothelo drove her team ~~right~~ right inside the roadhouse. Nobody badly hurt and dogs all okay except for minor bites.

Tells about the O'Brien murder. O'Brien followed two miners with fat pokes. He stole elder Bothelo's Saint Bernard dog (which had come in over the Chilkoot with the family). The dog got away and went back to Dawson. Dog tugged at Bothelo telling something was wrong. Bothelo got a Muntie and followed the dog which took them to the two murder victims. Caught up with O'Brien eventually in China. Prince, the dog, is buried in the Dawson cemetery.

Soapy Smith and Frank Reid both are (or were) in the Bothelo's restaurant in Skagway days. Emmett's wife was born in South Dakota. He met her in Juneau. His mother died in 1929 and his father in 1946. His brother died in spring of 1948.

Daughters: Cathy traveling in Europe this spring; Julie at Willemeth (sp??) college; and son Bruce studying law same place. Senior Bothel retired in Juneau. He was 86 when he died in 1946.

Emmett and his brother were in contracting business in Juneau. Filled (with gravel and rock) most of the streets in Juneau. Mined for a while. Emmett operated the Triangle Bar for five years. He joined the city police and was patrol man for five years. Chief of police one year. In 1943 he joined the Alaska Territorial Highway Patrol. Retired in 1961 as Lieutenant. Lived in Anchorage for 7 years during service with police.

Tells fascinating stories about war years...Japanese subs, Japanese secret meeting place, overhearing Japanese (in city cafe) talking about the Dec. 7th Pearl Harbor ~~was~~ bombing and reporting it to the FBI....150 or more soldiers at Excursion Inlet and most were convicts. Some times the town was swarming with soldiers on their way to the Aleutians. Navy boys got wound up several times, too.