

PETE POMUCHINA - Dawson

August 1973

REEL 1

Pete Pomuchina was born in Yugoslavia 17 November 1896. He came to Dawson on May 30, 1927. Prior to his Dawson days he worked in Sasketchiwan as a farm laborer. Went to Vancouver and then headed north. Never married. Doesn't think too much of marital status and prefers the bachelorhood he has persued all his life. Doesn't have very kind things to say about priests, who, he believes, are dishonest and have no direct influence with God.

Pete moved on to Bonanza Creek out of Dawson in 1945. He worked for Yukon Gold Co. on Dredges 2,3 and 4. Total of 16 years with that firm.

When he arrived in Canada, Pete could speak no English. And it's not improved much since then. He's very difficult to understand.

In 1927 when he arrived there were lots of miners on Bonanza, El Dorado, Dominion, Quartz, Granville and Gold Run.

In 1950 he visited in Juneau, staying with the Pusich family (Yugoslavian family who owned and operated resturant in Douglas .... Mike's Resturant).

Asked about Black Mike. Pete says Black Mike was an old man when Pete arrived in 1927. Thinks he is in fact 103 years old as is claimed (NOTE: Interviewer Mike Dalton tried to talk to Black Mike but he put her off and in fact told a couple obvious lies...where he stayed and/or personal history... like he came in over the Chilkoot in '98 when it is known that he didn't. Decided not to bother him at this time since so much going on and he was not too cooperative and/or interested. He's been pretty well covered as Dawson celebrity already).

Pete worked on the dredge bull gang, as a deck hand, oiler and finally as wenchman. All dredges dismantled, he said, except for No. 4 on Bonanza.

Mrs. Adriana Coyle is present...says that she and her family - the Lutro family - went to 11 El Dorado in 1900.

Pete talks about Pantages though he didn't seem to know him personally.

Some of the dredge masters Pete recalls are McMillan, Harry Jackman, Killbright, McClellan, Johnny Hogan. He's lived in his present cabin since 1950. Old cabin that needed repairs so he put some new bottom logs under it and moved in.

(more)

Pete Pomuchina, page 2

Tells about being in the Yugoslavian army in World War I. Has two brothers and two sisters. Robbed of everything during the war. One sister and one brother still living in the old country.