

REEL THREE

Janeau talks about the price of gold. Sold for \$16 per ounce in the early 1900's. He sniped enough gold and dust to make a good living (for a prospector). Later he partnered up with Pete Donnley, "a prince of a fellow", Ed recalled. Donnley went on to the Iditarod stampede after he and Ed divided up their dust. Donnley killed himself in the Ititarod, Janeau recalled.

Ed spent the year of 1941 working at Ladd Field, which was major military installation. Most miners were shut down during the war and much heavy equipment was taken by the military for defense construction. The equipment was purchased...not "taken".

REEL FOUR

Ed talks about his dog "Bingy", leader of his small dog team. Bingy flushed out a bear more than once. One time when Ed and his wife returned to their cabin from the mining operation, a moose was right at their front door. But the gun was inside. The moose took off. Ed commanded Bingy to "get the moose, Bingy". The dog rounded up the moose and drove him back to Ed's front door where Ed shot the animal. He and his wife depended on moose and caribou for their meat. Occasionally they could buy some fresh beef (frozen) or canned ham when they went to 40 Mile or other trading post.

Ed married Dee in 1920. She was the daughter of a neighboring farm family in Texas. Ed did not know her, however, until he met her in Arizona where he family had moved.

During World War I Ed was conscripted in the Army. He went to Saleno County, Calif. The U.S. Navy needed riggers so Ed was transferred to the Navy. He had had experience on sternwheelers on the Yukon and experience one season on the Susitna River (where he worked "river pigging" which means that he and his co-workers kept the Susitna river open for navigation...cutting trees and trunks stuck in the river). After discharge from the Navy he and Dee married. Bought a place in the Berkley Hills and Dee stayed there in summers while Ed went back to the 40 Mile for mining and assaying work. Lived in Berkley place until 1926 when they traded the property for a cotton farm in southern California. Sold that in the panic of 1926. Both headed north to the 40 Mile and remained in Alaska after that.

In 1930 or 1931 they went outside to Seattle, but the depression looked so bad they stayed only 8 days and returned to Alaska. They never did get to San Francisco that trip...or ever again.

Asked if he ever had bear trouble, Ed said "not much", but he did have a nodding acquaintance with many bears during his many years on the 40 Mile. Once he came close to being killed.

Once a big brown bear downed Janeau as he was on his way back to his cabin. He had gone to Steel Creek post office for the mail...a distance of about 20 miles over the hills. Ed was about two miles from home when the bear suddenly was in front of him and knocked him down. He had no weapon and he was in a burned area so there wasn't even a stick to poke down the bear's mouth or hit it on the head with. Bear stood over Ed, smelling him. Ed lying on ground with eyes closed, occasionally peeking up at bear. He said the bear seemed interested in the odor around Ed's face. He had a big chew of tobacco in his mouth. He did the only thing he could do. He spit! For all he was worth. Apparently the chew hit the bear in the eyes. The bear began backing off with Ed peeking now and then. Bear continued to back on down the hill. He remembered he had some matches in his pocket so he reached back into his back pack and pulled out a newspaper that had come in the mail at Steel Creek. He lighted the paper and at last had a weapon in case the bear attacked. He took off as the bear still backed off. The bear never followed him. His only close call, Ed said, adding "True as I'm sitting here!" The bear was probably the only one in the 40 Mile District that ever tasted tobacco, too.