

FLOYD AIKEN - Fairbanks

Taped in 1974. Interviewer is Mike Dalton.

Floyd Aiden, 70 years old in 1974, lives in the Fairbanks Pioneers Home. He has been suffering from Parkinson's disease for the past eight or more years.

He was known in Fairbanks for many, many years for his outstanding gardens and flower. He was one of very few men who entered the annual flower show in July. He took home many ribbons.

At the Fairbanks Pioneers home Floyd started many plants. He also revived many others that were pretty droopy. He's had trouble with other guests who want to pinch off shoots, pick flowers, etc. He has had a couple royal battles with one or two of the older matrons who live in the home...though he does not discuss these episodes on these tapes.

He entered the Pioneer home on April 6, 1973, his 69th birthday. He describes himself as a self-taught ^{GARDENER} gardener. He sold his home on Woodlawn Street because of his health. Sold it

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Aiken was living in Boulder City, Nev. in 1947 when he heard that Birch, Johnson, Lytle Construction (he'd worked for them before) were hiring men for Alaska jobs. He was hired and sent to Fairbanks. At that time Eielson Air Force Base was being built into a permanent base. During war it was just a strip and temporary buildings and was used for Russian trans-shipment of planes (from U.S. through Fairbanks to Nome and to Siberia). Aiken was a carpenter, a trade he followed most of his wrlking life.

He left Illinois in 1934. Had been a railroad brakeman and lost his job that year. Went to western Montana where he found work and stayed eight years. Then he went to Utah on a construction job. Then to ~~Los~~ Vegas...was there when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Hd gone to Las Vegas to help construct a magnesium plnat. Was drafted in the Army but discharged after six months because he was over age.