

NOTE: Taped by Jerome Lardy and Charley Mayse. Re-recorded from Jerome's cassettes to 7" reel to reel tape.

REEL 1

At the time of the interview, Joe Ward was 87 or 88 years old. Jerome observes that he is in good health, can read without the aid of glasses, but his hearing is a little poor.

Joe was born in Blackburn, Lankshire, England. He left Blacburn at the age of 20 (approx) and went to Manchester where he got a job as a gardener. He talks about "character"...meaning references in order to get jobs on estates. Character references apparently. Good character important in all endeavors.

His good friend, Jack Wellington, took Joe with him to the United States. Joe's brother was already in Canada. Jack and Joe went to Council Bluffs, Ia. and then to Omaha. He had no trouble getting jobs in gardening.

They saw ads in newspapers about lumber camps and jobs in the West. His brother George came down and the two brothers went into the lumber camps in California. This was about 1910.

Then Joe got the urge to head north and went to Dawson via Skagway. He walked to Whitehorse. He joined up with a German, a Scotsman and another man and went prospecting. Joe went as far as Fort Yukon and decided to stay. He remained there ever since (or in that general vicinity). He became a trapper instead of a miner or prospector.

Joe talks about Joe and Belle Herbert, an Indian family who had a trapline near his. He got to know them well and speaks highly of the Herbert family...how they showed the greenhorn trappers how to go about the business. "They showed us everyting we knew," Joe said.

He talks about his trapline which reached 60 miles north. He also talked about the trail to and through Chalkyitsik, Fish Hook and north...the Chandalar trail.

REEL 2

Joe recalls his buying a boat in Whitehorse. Then their trip down the Yukon and through Five Finger Rapids. Says it's a wonder all four of them were not drowned since they went through the middle channel, a most trecherous route.

With him were a Swiss, a German and a Scotsman.

They arrived in Dawson. Joe got job right away in a greenhouse. The others went to work on the creeks...Joe's salary was big to him: \$75 per month with room and board. After some time working in Dawson, the four men decided to go prospecting and trapping...which they did. They built a cabin with a bunk in each corner. They sank five or six holes that winter. They

were located on Webber Creek. Scotty Clark, the Scotsman, eventually left for outside. Felix Charter, the Frenchman, who joined up with Joe in the meantime, worked with him one winter on Webber Creek. They built a total of three cabins, Their holes were 30 to 70 feet deep.

Lardy considers Joe Ward the senior trapper in the Fort Yukon area. Asks Joe to talk about his cabins, dogs, trails, deadfalls (trap). Joe said the cabin they built was 16 ft by 16 ft, dirt floor, flat roof, Yukon stove (barrel stove with flat top welded on).