

DOROTHY and ART LOFTUS - Coos Bay, Ore.

(formerly of Fairbanks)

July, '73

REEL 1

Reel 1 opens with Dorothy talking about the first graduates of the University of Alaska (Alaska Agricultural and Mining, I think they called it) in 1923. Present are Dorothy and Art Loftus and interviewer Mike Dalton. More casual talk about the Pedro Monument dedication program and the people there. Talk about the people at the Pioneers Home...Helen Callahan, Dick Callahan, Charley Creamer. Helen was teaching in the Fort Yukon mission school under Archdeacon Stuck.

Dorothy has picture of Grace Clark, Dr. Charles Bunnell's secretary, and was girl friend of Ben Eielson. Also has two issues of the Dalton Trail magazine.

Art talks about Jack McFee, freighter. Art had a job of moving pipe and other freight from wide gauge railroad (Alaska railroad) to the narrow gauge railroad that went up to Olnes and Chatanika. Art worked as a breakman for awhile. In 1926 he bought a touring car and used it for taxi rides between College and Fairbanks. Also bought barber tools and became the campus barber (Bunnell rustled up the barber chair).

Dorothy came to Fairbanks in 1906 at the age of one year. Her mother was 41 at the time and expecting another baby. There was an older sister who got a bad cold and tuberculosis and died in 1909. Dorothy's mother always hated Fairbanks and the hard life here. Father (Roth) was an attorney with dreams and the gold bug. Made money but spent it on foolish gold schemes.

Dorothy was born Jan. 1, 1905 in Visalia, Calif. Her sister was born in 1907 in Fairbanks. Named Florence.

Roth had put up money and promoted other money for mills for gold in upper Pedro Creek region. Maddox did the mining. His son David Maddox still lives in Fairbanks.

She describes the first airplane that came to Fairbanks in 1912 or 1913. They charged \$5 to see it take off. Plane arrived on top of a paddlewheeler and was assembled on the ball park. Dorothy climbed on a roof to see it fly.