

H78-33-01

George Beck

August 30, 1975

Eagle, Alaska

Mike Dalton, interviewer

Mike interviews George Beck in the Eagle Roadhouse.

George Beck and Mike discuss surveying the international boundary. George said that the Canadians and Americans were both working on the survey. George said that it was once surveyed by pack horses on Eagle Creek. He said there was a Canadian engineer working with the Coastal and Geodetic Survey in the group.

George talks about the Steele Roadhouse, Phil Dover and Max Drews. Mrs. Coyle talks about Vince James owning the roadhouse. George said that Gilbert Thompson and his sisters later ran the roadhouse. It was once the customs house. Mrs. Coyle said that the women were checked to see if they were carrying any gold out of Dawson. Mike said that you were supposed to pay customs if you crossed the border with gold. They all talk about the type of illegal drugs being brought across the border and the regulations for crossing the border. George said Jack Hillard once described the training they had to work on the border. Jack Hillard was a pursor on a steamboat and then became a customs officer. He and Vaughny Richmond married sisters. Vaughny later became an executive with Caterpillar Tractor Company. Jack worked on Moose Creek on the Fortymile River. He would work in San Francisco at the port. George talked about Jimmy Barrick running the tractor dealership in Fairbanks.

George said he first came to Eagle in 1934. He was cutting wood on Ester Dome. He brought up a new caterpillar tractor on the Steamship Yukon. They were prospecting. George talks about Mike Ursing, Eugene "Denny" Moore, Charlie Murry, and Chuck Herbert.

George came up to Alaska by the Steamer Yukon in 1928. He worked on the bridge across the Resurrection River in Seward. He talks about working in the mine at Newcomb Bay. After three years he came to Fairbanks. He went to visit with Dr. Patty who was in charge for General McCrea's operations. He went out to Kantishna with Frank Pollack and worked for the Quigleys. Then he went up to Eagle with the new caterpillar. He talks about Johnny Lake in Central. He met his wife in Eagle. He worked at Coal Creek to help freight and build the dredges. He talks about the dredge at Woodchopper.

George talked about losing one of his boys in a car accident in South Dakota. His other son works for the state. They discuss Jack Sexton.

Mike asked George if he has always lived in Eagle. George said that after his separation from his wife in 1958 he traveled up north. He worked for the Wien brothers taking care of their ground equipment. He was in Barrow when the DEW line started. He started working for the DEW line construction. He talks about Elwood Tong and John Borgman. They were working for a non-union outfit (Federal Electric) and lost time on their pension. He later worked on Barter Island.

George said that Tom King died and gave the roadhouse to Mrs. Monk and her husband. Charlie Monk started working for the Road Commission. He was later killed in an

accident Mrs. Monk sold the roadhouse to George in the 1930s. They talk about Henry and Berta Stout.

They talk about the Germans in Eagle during WWI. They had to report to the police because they were pro-German during the war.