

EEL 2

Reel two opens with more talk about the Nenana visit of President Warren Harding...and Mrs. Hall's missing the ceremony in July of this year (celebrating the 50th anniversary).

She tells of the family's move to Bethel from Nenana in 1929. By this time they had two sons, John and Robert. She and the children went Outside and then went to Bethel on the Tupper. Dixie had gone over there as store accountant and manager for the Northern Commercial Co. He flew and the air fare then was \$500. They lived in a frame house that sagged every year from the frozen ground (thawing in warm periods). Had a garden in the summer. Had plenty of reindeer meat and fish. Most supplies were sent in from Seattle on the Tupper which came into Bethel in June and September. Or October. Twice a year was all.

Mail was delivered by dog team from Fairbanks. Came about once every six weeks as she recalls. Dixie subscribed to the Denver Post and Eskimo children loved to come to the Halls to see the comics and to hear the Halls read to their children. They spent four years in Bethel. Tony Dimond, delegate to Congress. told Dixie of a clerk's job with the U.S. Marshall in Fairbanks that he could have if he wanted to move. He accepted the job and the family moved to Fairbanks in 1933. Dixie flew, but Esther wanted to take the last trip that was being made up the Kuskokwim, portage over to the Russian Mission site on the Yukon River. She and the two little boys did that and came up the Yukon and Tanana Rivers on the sternwheeler \_\_\_\_\_ (she says the "Yukon" that is at Alaskaland now, but that vessel is the "Nenana". Think she might mean the "Yukon" for the Nenana is really of recent vintage... built after 1933 I am sure. M.D.)

She talks about the Natives in Bethel living in one room houses and how her boys played out in all weather...with dog and sleds and with boat in the summer. Describes how the Natives brought in seal oil in pokes and each poke had to be tasted before the M.C. Co. would buy it (to see if the seal oil was rancid or not). Natives loved it to dip dried fish in.

First airplane that came into Bethel was in 1931. she thinks. It landed on floats in the slough. Early pilots she remembers coming into Bethel were Al Munson, Noel Wien, Matt Neffmann, Nieminen, Harry Blunt, Frank Dorbant...some of whom were with Pacific International Airlines.