

REEL 2

Mamie opens discussion on this tape with talk about her "teen-agers" taking kyak trips in summer. Describes their trip down the Keystone Canyon near Valdez.

• More on camp cooking. She said the menus were plain camp cooking. Had pies and cakes all the time. Had a couple of Hewey Long's henchmen at their camp who liked hot sauce. Didn't like them.

Accidents? No accidents on hunts. Had a scare one time when a retired colonel insisted on going close to see bears fishing and had heart attack.

Mamie shoot a bear? Yes. When they were mining at Cache Creek and she was blueberry picking. Shot big grizzly.

Luke had several cases where he had to shoot bear that charged his hunters. No trouble. With a high powered rifle you can knock them down, she says.

In 1958 Elwells sold their lodge and went to Hawaii. Luke died in 1969. The couple spent the 10 years after retirement traveling or going out to tropical climates in winters. In summers they returned to Alaska, going to Kenai Lake and renting a cabin for the summer.

Old timers from Kenai area? Jack Lane is still living and is guest at Pioneers Home in Sitka. His sister-in-law Mrs. Charley Lane is in Juneau. All others are gone.

Remember any Klondike era stampeders in Seward? Yes. One she tells about is Pat Taylor who had been in the Nome rush. He had a huge dog and the dog was a descendent of a Klondike dog stamper. Tells story about dogs and Nome snow drifts.

Tells about her dog team at Cache Creek. She got an older dog called Rats from a prospector who had got the dog from another man who mistreated the animal. Luke made leader out of Rats. Used dog team to haul freight from Talkeetna 60 miles to mining site on Peters Creek.

Mamie credits Rats with saving their life once and saving Luke's life another time. Tells the stories in detail.

Mamie recalls the 1923 visit in Seward by President Warren Harding. Dignitaries took him on a ride seven miles out of town (seven miles was all they had of road!). Speeches by Harding and Herbert Hoover from rear of train.

Mamie says she colabored on a book on Alaska wild flowers with Ada White Sharples.

She belongs to American Legion Auxiliary for World War I vets. Does not belong to the Pioneers but plans to join now that she is living in Anchorage and able to attend meetings.

(more)

Car? She and Luke never had one and never had use for one. He learned to fly an airplane, however.

Arctic? Went up once. She flew up in a Widgeon. Luke never guided in that area, however. Reminds her of a picture she has from Alaska magazine of the Brooks Range with a lone raven sitting a rock in foreground. Tells story about early days in Circle district (Birch Creek mining days) when she was on a promitory waiting for caribou and calves to migrate by. She was lying prone waiting quietly and watching through Luke's binoculars. A raven circled over and around and cawed and cawed. It left and came back with reinforcements ready to descend and eat the body stretched out on the ground. Mamie said she let them get very close and then let them have a "horse laugh" and frightened them off. No big meal that day for the ravens.