

BARNEY HANSON  
and  
OLE HANSON1

H78-41-01

EAGLE, ALASKA , August, 1973

Reel 1 opens with mixed conversation between the Hansons, Al and Roberta Stout and Mrs. Adriana Coyle and interviewer Mike Dalton. Left the conversation on the tape because it concerns the Steeles and their hotel in Fairbanks and their road house in Eagle in the 1930's and earlier. Roberta Stout is the daughter of the Steeles.

Mrs. Steele came to Eagle in 1908. She had a sister living there. Mr. Steele was there already. He worked as a mule skinner for the military at Ft. Egbert, an Army post at Eagle. Steele bought the Eagle Roadhouse and enlarged it for his family. Later he and Mrs. Steele made it into a roadhouse. Buster Thompson bought it in the late 40's and he sold it to Vince and Peggy James.

Talk about Vince James, across the street, working on his new cabin. He is building it on the site of the old roadhouse. Tore the roadhouse down in the summer of 1972 and is using wood and nails (and sawdust insulation) for his new structure. This is not on the tape, but Mike Dalton was talking to Vince this same day....knows him from Fairbanks. He is the stepfather of C.M. (Jim) Binkley. Mrs. James, who died last winter, was Jim Binkley's mother. Vince used to live and work in Eagle years ago when the steamers were going up and down the Yukon with regularity.

At any rate, the conversation turned briefly to the sawdust insulation that Vince was using. Barney and Al Stout speculate that it's the same sawdust that was used in the old roadhouse which doubtlessly came from the Ft. Egbert sawmill...any time from its beginning in 1899 ...so the sawdust Vince is using could be more than 70 years old.

Talk about hte old Riverside Hotel in Eagle. They (Steeles) left Eagle in 1948.

Barney Hanson came to Eagle in 1929. He had visited Southeastern Alaska in 1915 and couldn't get the country out of his system, he said. He had been working in Yakima, Wash in 1929 and had worked his way up to an office job with Union Oil Co. One beautiful spring day he tried to open his window and it was stuck shut. He quit. Decided on the spot that he had to get back into the open air. He remembered an invitation he had ... to visit Burt Bryant in Eagle so he struck out for Eagle, Alaska. His brother Ole came with him. Tells about going up to Dawson for Discovery day events and getting too much to drink. That was the first and last time that ever happened, he said.

(more)

In 1934 Jack Boswell of the Fairbanks Exploration Co. asked Barney to go to work for that company. They were beginning to use big giant nozzels for stripping overburden. They wanted Barney to head up that operation. The one way air fare to Fairbanks then was \$125.00.

Barney tells about the first attempt at nozzle operation with all the F.E. Co. bigwigs standing around. Some bright engineer type turned on the flood gates and the nozzle went wild. Big huddle. Barney told Boswell a few things (basics) about water hydraulics, handling of the head of water, etc. Boswell went back to the huddle and they did it Barney's way...worked beautifully from then on. Barney was head nozzle man and Vic Carlson headed the other 12 hour shift. Some names of men he worked with: Olaf Iverson, Jack Linck, Oscar Phipps...and a whole passle of college kids in the summer.

Cripple Creek was his principal location. Barney taught many othhrs to handle the Giants..."to pipe", as he calls it.