

## HARRY HAVRILACK - Rampart

July 29, 1973

REEL 1

Interviewer Mike Dalton and Harry Havrilack are having coffee that Harry just brewed. They talk about Harry's stove (Yukon stove). He describes making bread and how it is done (baked) in the ground as some prospectors learned when they were on the go all the time (and no stoves to cook on). He talks about Magic Yeast.

Havrilack is an Ukranian name, Harry explains. He went to Rampart in 1934. It was depression time and he lived in New York. Headed for Alaska with a few dollars in his possession. He had read about Cripple Creek and the Circle Country. On the way from Anchorage he met Ernest Patty. Harry wanted to go prosepcting and Patty encouraged. Spent some time at Circle Hot Springs. Then on to Circle and on to Fort Yukon. He met Johnny Smoke who wanted Harry to finance him trapping. Harry has studied geology at Columbia (night school). He bought a boat in Fort Yukon to drift down to prospect. Got lost in the Yukon Flats. Landed in Rampart on July 3 and met Red Anderson and went prosepcting with him. First few years Harry lived out in the woods and on the creeks.

When he left New York he worked for a Studebaker garage. Six years later his boss wrote to him and wanted him to come back to work.

Harry was born in Dixon, Pa. July 3, 1910.

He came in and out of Rampart. Finally bought a cabin from Mr. Armstrong.

Now he is the magistrate. He became commissioner in 1951. He replaced Kitty Harwood as commissioner. Others he remembers: Webster, Thyman, Mrs. George Coughlin, her brother Jim Coughlin, Mrs. Cap Crane, Clem Anderson, Kitty Harwood. When Kitty quit to move to Fairbanks Harry and Ira Weisner applied to Judge Pratt for the job.

In 1934...any Klondikers left in Rampart? Yes. Crockett and his partner LaPorte (Frenchman), Pete Larken, Pege Boganz. Al Mayo was already gone in 1934. Survivors of Mayo are Charlie Mayo and Antoinette Wood. Mrs. Clemn on Hunter Creek...she and her husband came over the Chilkoot Pass.

How big in 1934? About 200 cabins all occupied. Many trappers. Mrs. Lynn had the roadhouse in what is now Weisner's store.

Harry never joined the Pioneers of Alaska. Used to have a lodge of the Yukon Order of Pioneers in Rampart. Never had a Pioneers' lodge, however, Harry said.

Who is mining now? Harry on Ruby Creek, a tributary of Big Minook Creek; Shelling brothers (from Fairbanks) on Slate Creek just above Ruby Creek; Melo Jacovich on Hunter Creek; Carlos on Hunter; Ira Weisner on Hoosier Creek; Frank Reinosky who has been looking for a meteor for the past 20 years on the summit between Grouse Creek

(more)

and another tributary (name I didn't get). Reinosky is an old trapper, prospector. worked for F.F. Co. and thinks a meteor is in the ground up there). Johnny Weihl, Danny Weihl's father, remembered the meteor falling and streaking through the Rampart area. Many other residents of Rampart saw the meteor streak through. Year uncertain.

REEL 2

Frank Reinosky probably coming back this fall, Harry says. He's been looking for the meteor about 20 years. Natives think he's a joke, Harry said. Old people saw the streak and heard it strike. Reinosky found a crater that he believes is the dent the meteor made. Harry thinks it might be an ice lens sink hole.

Harry's recording district stretches below Hozannah below Beaver. He yearly records many claims that are not being worked but assessment work is done yearly.

Harry gets letters from many outsiders inquiring about available mining ground. Some people even walk in from Tofty, Manley Hot Springs area. Talks about road that was going to be built from Manley road into Rampart.

Harry enlisted in the U.S. Army at Ladd Air Force Base during World War II. Trained at Ladd. Was sent to Nome. Injured by schrapnel there when a plane blew up and bombs went off. Sent to Anchorage and then to Indiana where he was hospitalized in Billings General Hospital. Reassigned after wounds healed to the First Fighter group on the east coast ....Langley Air Base. War over and back to Rampart.

Harry never married thought he thought about it. Talks about his family not accepting him if he married a Native or part Native woman...though he talks about the "fine" people his family are. One brother was shot down in a plane near Iceland during the war. Older brother died a few years ago. One sister living.

He looks at mining recording books and discusses assessments and recordings briefly.... One recording in 1900 signed by commissioner Andrew Balliet. 1899 assessment by Elmer Townsend.

Population in Rampart in 1900 around 10,000 people.

Dalton reads a chronology of gold discoveries written and apparently compiled by one Joseph Ulmer, E.M. (author unknown; date of chronology unknown...something Harry found in commissioner's files and retains in same files):

Peter Doroshin, Cook Inlet, 1843  
Alexander Buck Choquette, 1861, Stikine River  
Andrew Libby, 1863, (Council) Niguluk River,  
Seward Peninsula  
George Holt, 1878, Salmon River (upper river)  
Cassiar, B.C. 1872, Tibbert and McCullough

C. Vincent Baranovich, first quartz mine, Kasann, 1865  
Joe Juneau and J. Harris, 1881, Juneau  
40 Mile, Upper Yukon, Franklin, 1884  
Circle District, John Pavalock Minook, Sergi Gologoff  
Zerofsky  
(Pitka Bar), Peter Paoff Pitka, 1892  
Rampart, John Minook Pavalock, Ureka, 1893.

Early books in Anchorage would show recording books from each creek. One book on Ruby...records claims through the years...

(Danny Wiehl appears in the conversation)

Ralph A. Young of 1436 Belview Driver, Wooster Ohio 44691.  
Born in Rampart....writes to Harry Havrilack concerning Rampart  
Gold Mining capatilized over \$1 million. The Rev. Egbert Koonze  
and E.T. Townsend two of its incorporators.