

H78-743

Jim Dalton

Mike Dalton, interviewer

Fairbanks, Alaska

1974

The tape opens up with Mike and Jim Dalton talking about an unidentified person who was fired by Jim Dalton. Jim talks about his brother, Jack Dalton, Jr. who was born in 1891-1892. Jim thinks he might have been born in Haines. Jim talks about the early life of his father, Jack Dalton, Sr. Jim thinks his father was born in Michigan about 1856 or 1858. The family worked in the iron mines. The family then moved to Salinas, Kansas where Jack Dalton, Sr., grew up. He worked on the railroads and then worked in Mexico and South America. He later worked in Yuma, Arizona. He worked for George W. Young. He drove 16 mule teams in approximately 1878-1879. He then worked in eastern Oregon breaking wild horses for Hank Vonn. His father later logged in the same area. He was threatened by men in Prineville, Oregon and he shot one of the men. He fled to Hank Vonn's house and then moved to Puget Sound. He left for Alaska on a sealing ship. Hunting fur seal was illegal and they were eventually caught. They were put in jail in Sitka. This was approximately 1882-1883. The crew was later released. Jack Dalton, Sr. stayed in the area. He later mined on Porcupine Creek out of Haines. The name of the mining group was called Porcupine Trading Company. His partner was Judge Maloney. They were mining a glacier stream and would occasionally get flooded out. They sold the operation to a group from New York. Jack Dalton's future wife was in this group. They had a hard time finding someone to marry them because Jack Dalton's divorce wasn't final. They were married in Cordova. Jack Dalton, Sr. was a good friend of Bishop Crimont. Jim and Mike Dalton talk about people climbing Mt. McKinley. Jim said he was born in 1913 in Seattle. Mike and Jim talk about the difficulty of getting a birth certificate for Jim. The birth certificate did not have his first name on it, just baby Dalton. He talked about the schools he attended in Seattle and Yakima, Washington. Jim talked about the work his father did for the Copper River Railroad in Cordova. Jack Dalton had acquired the land where the port facility was later built. There was litigation over the land. There was also litigation for the survivors of men who died building the railroad. Eventually Jack won in court. Jim talks about his father paying for his education. He left Pullman, Washington in 1935 and came up to Alaska. He eventually graduated from the University of Alaska. He had a job at Gold Stream and talked about coming into Fairbanks on the Fourth of July. His father moved around to different locations in the United States after he left Alaska. Jim and Mike talk about Jim's father going by the name Jack Miller at one time. Jack Dalton died at the age of 88 or 89. Jim said that his father had provided the pack animals for the Alaska-Yukon boundary survey. Mike and Jim discuss William Ogilvie.