

H78-74-01

Bruce and Charlotte Thomas

July 15, 1975

Fairbanks, Alaska

Tape starts in the middle of a discussion between Mike Dalton and Bruce Thomas about Alaskaland. They were discussing the renewal of the agreement with the pioneer board.

Mike asked about a story in the July 11 All-Alaska Weekly about Charlotte Thomas. Charlotte was the queen regent. Charles Lynn was Charlotte's father. Charlotte has one brother, Harold Jestlend and one sister, Edith Munson. They have two sons who live in California and Brooklyn. They discuss the Ferguson family. Their son, Brian lives in Brooklyn. Their son, Terry lives in Diamond Bar, California. Charlotte was born in Ester in 1914. Her mother, Thea died in 1948. Her mother came to Dawson in 1900 and then moved to Fairbanks after she was in the Iditarod area for a while. Charles Lynn came to Dawson in 1898. He came with his brother. He was caught in one of the slides on the Chilkoot Pass. He was one of the charter members of the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo no. 4. Charlotte lived out in Ester for a year and a half and then moved to Livengood. They moved to Fairbanks in 1920. Her father went to Manley Hot Springs in 1927-1928. Then he worked for the FE Company and the railroad. When they lived in Fairbanks they lived on Third and Wickersham. She attended public school in Fairbanks and then the college in Fairbanks. She graduated in 1935. She taught for one year and then she married. They didn't want married teachers. She was working as administrative assistant at the Pioneer Home. The Pioneer Home was flooded soon after it was opened. They had 119 residents in the Pioneer Home at the time of the interview. Charlotte also worked for the school district at one time. She worked with Jack Linck.

Bruce was born in Treadwell. He was born in 1913. He has two brothers, Robert L. and Merl S., Jr. His mother's name was Agnes Katherine Kemmerling. Her father came up before 1898 to Treadwell Mine from Michigan. His sister passed away years ago. The Treadwell Mine was on Douglas Island. It was an underground mine. The house he was born in went down when the mine caved in. The mine was filled with water. His father's name was Merl F. Thomas, Sr. His father died in 1966. His parents had lived at Seventh and Barnette. His two brothers live in Fairbanks. All three of the brothers own Builder Services. He is retired from the Bureau of Mines. Bruce mentioned Earl Pilgrim from Stampede. They talked about mining claims in the Kantishna area. Bruce discussed D-2 Lands and the state of Alaska. He was worried about the state losing its sovereignty. Mike discussed pioneer stock and concerns of the state.

Bruce and Charlotte were the king and queen regents in 1975. Mike asked Charlotte about Golden Days. Charlotte was making an outfit for the celebration. Bruce was

**planning to wear a derby and vest. Bruce told a story about Beistline's tent on the Little El Dorado. Festivities for Golden Days were discussed. Mike discussed her trip on the Chilkoot Trail from the previous year.**