

H78-82

Mike Dalton talks about her trip to Rampart, Alaska

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Mike makes comments about her recent trip to Rampart, Alaska which is located upstream from Tanana on the Yukon River. There were fifteen to sixteen families living in Rampart with about forty-five to fifty people total. Rampart was started because of gold. In 1896 gold was discovered by John Minook on Minook Creek. Traces of gold have been found in the Rampart area in 1893. Rampart was a booming gold rush town by 1898. Mrs. Antoinette Woods was born on the Yukon River and moved to Rampart when she was three years old. She remembers Rampart having 10,000 people. Harry Havrilock thought the population was about 6,000. Alvin Henry drowned in Rampart about the same time Mike Dalton was in town. People generally won't search for a body until it has been missing for a few days. His body was later found near Tanana. Mike flew to Rampart on Fort Yukon Air Service with Lucy "Ann" Carlo. The driver of the airport taxi is Daniel Wiehl who also transports the mail. She walked to town from the airport with Ann and Bill Carlo. She talked about Ira Reisner and his altercation with his son, Stuart Reisner. Words and blows were exchanged between father and son. The state troopers were called in. Levi Foote was a security guard working for Reisner. Bill Carlo was born in Rampart in 1915. Bill's father, Emil Notti's father, and Dominic Renetti came to Alaska together from Sicily. Bill lived in Rampart until 1930. Mike said Bill was a hard working man. He mined gold at Hunter Creek and spent most of his time constructing part of the highway for the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Bill learned to fly over twenty years ago. He and his wife have nine children. There were five mining operations in Rampart in 1973. The five miners in operation were: Ira Reisner, Harry Havrilock, Bill Carlo, Milo Jackovich and Costa Milnakov. Milnakov was from Russia and fought for the United States in WWII. He is now a U.S. citizen. Harry Havrilock is on Ruby Creek and Milo Jackovich and Bill Carlo are on Hunter Creek. Fort Yukon Air Services comes to Rampart three times a week from Fairbanks. Quite a few people fly their own aircraft. Pete Merry and his wife, Renee visit Rampart every summer. The United States commissioner is Harry Havrilock. He came to the Yukon drainage in 1934 and has been commissioner since about 1951. He replaced Kitty Harwood. He has built his own place in Rampart which he also uses for his courtroom. He built after the 1963 flood in Rampart. A few older buildings on the riverfront escaped damage from the 1963 flood including the trading post, the old signal corps building and a building used by Judge Wickersham. Some of the old court records were damaged by the flood. Prior to 1898 each creek had its own recorder. The court records had been called in by the state judicial system to settle claims on properties. Mike Dalton believes the collection should be preserved or microfilmed by the state.