

H94-13-09

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Mark Beverly Ringstad
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) NA (MAIDEN NAME:) NA

MAILING ADDRESS: 502 Monroe Street Fairbanks, AK 99701
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: Oct. 3, 1921 BIRTHPLACE Anchorage, AK
(city/state)

SPOUSE: Rose Potter Ringstad

MARRIAGE DATE: May 31, 1947 PLACE: Stephenson, Michigan

CHILDREN: Beverly, James, Mary, Rebecca, Jean, Barbara,
Philip, Christine and Cecilia.

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: Fairbanks, AK

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: B.S. Mining Engineering, Owner -
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.; The Coal Bunkers. Retired.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

Fairbanksans made their own entertainment when Mark Ringstad
was growing up in the 1920s and 1930s. Sporting events such
as boxing were held at the Moose Hall. Everyone skated on the
Chena River, sometimes to music piped to the river from a
Second Avenue music studio.

Ringstad's parents met and married in Anchorage when it
was still a Tent city. He recalled a story about his mother
telling of being charged \$5 by Cap Lathrop to move her
tent and belongings by horse and cart three blocks away.
Mother Sylvia Ringstad became the first female mayor of
Fairbanks in 1965 when she was 80 years old.

World War II interrupted Ringstad's education at the
University of Alaska. Returning on the G. I. Bill, he graduated
in mining engineering in 1949.

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: Jan 27, 1994 TAPE NUMBER: 548

He worked for the family's Pepsi Cola business and later for Usibelli Coal Co. in town. He talked about both Lathrop's and Usibelli's deaths on the job at their respective coal mines.

Names mentioned

Anabeth Hanlon(teacher)
Cap Lathrop
Emil Usibelli
Dr. Bunnell
Tommy Paskvan
Wesley Munson
Harold Gillam
Wien brothers
Archie Ferguson
Bob Reeves
Albert Peterson
Eddie Steger
Terrence McDonald
Howard Miscovich
Bachner
Senator Stevens
Abe Shallit
Ernie Fandler
Mrs. O'Gara(American Hand Laundry)