

DR. BOB JOHNSON
ON
KODIAK, ALASKA, DURING WORLD WAR II
And
His arrival in Kodiak
Kodiak before the War

By
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The following autobiographical interview was held on November 29, 1990, with Dr. Bob Johnson, a family physician. The interview was conducted in Dr. Johnson's Shahafka Cove home. The interviewer is Larry Ellsworth, student at the University of Alaska in Kodiak.

LE: Today is November 29th, (1990) and I'm at the home of Dr. Bob Johnson in Kodiak, and I'd like to talk to Bob tonight and ask him a few questions about the effect that World War II had on Kodiak Island.

Dr. Johnson, would you tell us a little bit about some of the things that have happened to you in your brief life...

BJ: That's a loaded question...some of the things that happened to me in my brief life...I could probably talk all evening about that but I'm sure you're not interested in that... that much...so let me say that I was born into a family that had been raised with what I consider a sort of a missionary attitude...which explains largely the reason my father, who was a doctor, gravitated to Kodiak, Alaska where he saw a need that he thought he could fulfill...and since at the time he gravitated to Alaska I was 12 and had no visible means of support, I accompanied him along with my mother...that was in 1938...at that time Kodiak was a small, sleepy, peaceful fishing village of about 550 people...and there were a lot of things that it didn't have, and I could go into that but I don't think I will...in 1939, the first surveyors arrived for the purpose of taking a look at Womans Bay in preparation for building the naval station...in 1940, large numbers of construction people arrived and that naval station began to build and our community began to grow...that was the start of a Kodiak point of view of a boom that never ceased from that moment until very recently...so in the center of all this boom I grew up, and graduated from high school while the war was still going on, went south to university and then medical school and then spent a little time in the United States merchant marine during the war and then came back to Kodiak to practice in 1955...I've been in practice, and general practice at first, and then as a board-certified family physician since 1955...and I have also been imbued with a little of the missionary spirit so I was engaged in a lot of civic activity always along the line, but I won't go into that...briefly that's it, I'm currently a board-certified family physician with a somewhat

attenuated practice, working part-time as a consultant with the Kodiak Council on Alcoholism, writing a weekly article of public information on medical subjects in the newspaper, and starting a jazz quartet, and acting in the various productions, I've always been interested in the arts, that about sums it up...I'm married and have four boys, and they're all married...one of them lives here and the others still make their (can't hear)...now what?...

LE: Okay, Dr. Johnson you answered a couple of other questions I had in mind...I'd like to...you mentioned that before the war that there was a sleepy fishing community, and I wonder because fisheries have a way of changing from one time to another, what kind of fisheries did we have back then...and maybe how many canneries...and did we have any, oh, Filipino or Chinese or non-American workers in the canneries at that time...what do you remember about that?

BJ: When we landed in Kodiak in 1938, the location that is now...this side of the city dock was Kodiak Fish Company dock and cannery...that was built, I think, in 1912...1918... no...1912, and that was the only cannery here when we arrived...and it was only processing salmon...so there was a red salmon and pink salmon fishery and silver salmon fishery and a dog salmon fishery...and that was it...we were a one industry town and it was a one season industry...most of the people who lived here fished anywhere from 3 weeks to 3 months of the year and the rest of the time they didn't do anything...except for the support industries...so that was it...the next cannery came in 1937, McConnhays cannery, it was a floating cannery, (inaudible)...that was moored down where the ferry dock is now...

LE: Okay...

BJ: What else was it you wanted to know?...

LE: What about workers? Did that Kodiak cannery, did they have Filipino or Chinese workers similar to the situation where we have today where we have quite a few Filipinos working in the processing plants?

BJ: Yes, as you may know, if you read any of the history of Kodiak Island, they customarily brought Chinese cannery workers up for the Karluk fisheries which antedates the Kodiak fishery by quite a few years but in the Kodiak fishery when

we arrived they were bringing Filipino workers up every summer.

LE: You may have answered this before, Dr. Bob. I know you mentioned that, when you talked about your life that you were going to med school...were you on the island when the war actually broke out, when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and if not, where were you and how old were you at that time. What do you remember about that?

BJ: Pearl Harbor was December...

LE: 1941

BJ: 1941 and, December, 1941, I was a junior at the Kodiak High School, and I was fifteen years of age...I remember that fairly well...I remember it showing (?) in the Kodiak Daily Mirror, which may still have been a mimeographed paper, but I don't remember for sure...it was to begin with...and, yeah, I remember that war was declared while I was in Kodiak, and prior to that time, we had what we called the Navy kids that had infiltrated the school...they came up with the Navy families to man the naval station or to, at least, accompany their husbands who manned the station, and there was a whole influx of military kids that were fun to get to know as a matter of fact...I was the only Caucasian kid in school here when I arrived and maybe for a year or two thereafter so it was kind of fun to have a bunch of Caucasians come in from outside...after the war was declared though, in two weeks all of those people left...they were evacuated south (?) and we were back to square one as far as school was concerned...that was a lot of activity and a lot more Navy came in and then the troops started coming in...as a matter of fact they started coming in before the war, before Pearl Harbor, so it was pretty obvious around these parts that somebody was expecting trouble and they were preparing for it in advance.

LE: What were some of the war-time projects either things that were started before war actually was declared or begun after war was declared...what are some of the projects that you remember the most?

BJ: Are you talking about projects that are the result of the war? having to do with the naval station? or are you talking about projects in town that had to do with the growth as a secondary result of the influx of the military?

LE: Well, let's break that into two parts and talk about ones related to the war...

BJ: Okay, well a good source for this by the way would be Hank Eaton if you don't have him on your list because he worked out at the base and knows a lot about that. Ah, a naval station was built with housing for naval personnel, with a fully equipped hospital, and an army camp...a tent city was built on the station over the process of one or two years, or maybe three at the most starting... before Pearl Harbor and extending beyond...how many troops we had in here, I think we had 25,600 people in here at one time...there may have been 50,000 troops at one time...what they were going to use them for, they had reasons, and I'm not sure that I know them...they didn't do much because there wasn't any ground fighting here or on the Aleutian Chain, but I'm sure they didn't know that there wasn't going to be any so (?)...the naval station was a headquarters for submarines and for aircraft, and they flew between here and Dutch Harbor and out to Shemya as you would read in "The One Thousand Mile War" to bomb Kiska and to recapture it and Adak which was also captured by the Japanese...a lot of work went on out there...a lot of work went on in town because town swelled by the addition of construction workers for the naval station which was being built by (?) the service workers who came in to help operate the base...and the town grew by leaps and bounds from a population of 550 to a population of about 5000 I think over four years...part of what went on there, the town became incorporated as a first class city in 1940, I think, and a lot of businesses were built...I have a list of the things that were built but I am not sure if you want me to go into that...transportation companies, a radio station came in, a phone company that didn't exist-we had no phones, Pacific Northern Airlines-we had no air transportation in here prior to 1940 but in 1940 we had begun service between here and Anchorage and then Alaska Airlines between Seattle and Anchorage started-a route to Kodiak that was much easier than the one used by steamships...we came by steamship and I went back and forth to school by ship as a matter of fact...and that ended after '42 so the airline service wasn't much, but it had been started...we had a post office, of course, when we came...the Kodiak Island, no, no, no...the radio station, we had no radio station here but the military started a radio station called KODK, and that was probably in 1940 shortly after the

base was built...the Kodiak Island Hospital or the Griffin Memorial Hospital was built in 1940, the Baptist Church was built in 1940, the Baptist Mission was here when we got here and it expanded gradually and it had nothing to do directly with the War.

LE: Now was it on Woody Island at this time or was it over on Kodiak...

BJ: It was being built in Kodiak on this side when we arrived.

LE: Okay, you mentioned submarines and airplanes were based here. Where did they have the submarines stationed in relationship to our harbor today and what kind of planes did they have here?

BJ: I'm not going to be able to give you much information on that...I don't know types of planes or types of ships were in here...there were ships in here and there were officers running back and forth to the ships, and there were submarines, I believe, moored out in Womans Bay...at least that's where one place I knew that they were moored...I'm going to step back just a minute and tell you what was here before the war, okay...before the naval station...there were 2 stores, 2 bars, 1 church, 1 poolroom, 1 cannery as I already told you, the Standard Oil Company-one oil company, a post office, 2 cafes, 1 transfer company, dirt roads, cows in the streets, gardens in peoples' backyards, and the Baptist Mission...a US Commissioner, a US Marshal, a ramshackle jail with bedbugs, and no organized form of government (?)...

LE: Ah, the base-town road that we're familiar with today...was that a dirt road at this time or was it even constructed before the war?

BJ: That was constructed before the war. It was a single lane dirt road and you can still some remnants of it up on the side of Pillar Mountain...it ran along the edge of Pillar Mountain about 100 feet up and it was a single lane...there were a few places where if you met somebody you were lucky you didn't have back up too far to let them get by...that was the road out to Bells Flats, Womans Bay where there was a ranch or a couple of ranches, and it was there before the war...WHAT WASN'T HERE WHEN WE ARRIVED?...automobiles-there was three-ours was the third, paved streets, electricity-there wasn't any-there was one light plant for two houses (?),

no telephones-except for a crank system, it was a party system, no water system, no sewer system, no hospital, no laundry, no dry cleaning, no bakery, no airport, no boat harbor, no police force or any form of government, also no dentist or veterenarian.

LE: How did people get water?

BJ: From a well.

LE: Was it a community well or did everybody have their own well or...

BJ: There were several wells...there was a small water system called the Erskine System that came out of a dam in that cleft in the side of Pillar Mountain that you see...there was a creek coming down there and that was dammed and piped to a few houses but it wasn't the water system for the whole town.

LE: Dr. Johnson, what branches of the service seemed to play a prominent role on Kodiak and maybe you could tell me where they specially were headquartered in relationship to town and Coast Guard Base today.

BJ: Yeah, I think I can do that...in 1939 the surveyors came and they had a building on Nymans Peninsula which projects into Womans Bay on the other side of the hangars, right?...where the administration building is now and the officers, Golden Anchor,...okay, that's on Nymans Peninsula...prior to that, actually, a couple of surveyors came up in 1938...a fellow by the name of Ted Carpenter and another fellow by the name of Steve Brodie and they had a tent on Nymans Peninsula, they were taking a preliminary look prior to the arrival of the surveyors...they called their camp, by the way, Whistlebritches and I think you can probably understand why...the wind blows out there a bit...In 1940 the Navy arrives, 3000-3500 officers and men...they were quartered in the area surrounding Womans Bay, okay, the head of Womans Bay, Nymans Peninsula, the whole area where the housing is surrounding the control tower for the airport was Navy housing, the area where the Coast Guard housing is now, a little circle of two story houses where the commandant and the commanding officer live was where the Navy commander lived, the same houses...there used to be quadraplexes there for naval officers and there were barracks for the men and up on so called Aviation Hill which is on the approach to the Coast Guard station entrance now...after you leave

the airport and wander through the hills, there is housing there for the Navy...the Army was clustered around where, what do they call that bunch of homes the Coast Guard people live in now, around Lake Louise...

LE: Nemetz...

BJ: Nemetz...Nemetz Park was a whole separate set of housing including the hospital, army barracks, and housing, and there was housing around Lake Louise as well...so the Army occupied that and the Army occupied Tent Village on the Buskin...down along the Buskin River that's where they first settled (?)...a whole bivouac of tents-half frame and half tent and little wood stoves or oil stoves (?)...so Armytown was where the Coast Guard was and Navytown, the Navy was where the hangers are and all the Coast Guard Base is now. Does that pretty well answer it? The Marines were there, too, but they were quartered in the area with the Navy... clustered around the head of Womans Bay and where the airport control tower and that housing is.

LE: What wartime personnel do you remember? And it doesn't have to be generals, it could be somebody that touched your family in a certain way...it could be a seaman.

BJ: I remember, yeah...you heard about all the generals and stuff...my folks were sort of social representatives of the community and they always had the generals and the admirals in for dinner and vice versa so Mom met a lot of them including the four commanders anyway, one in charge of air force, one in charge of the Navy, one in charge of the Army, whom you heard me talking to her about (in a phone call previous to taping)...

LE: Would you go ahead and mention those names for the people listening...

BJ: I'd like to, I don't know where I put that list...yes, I do...yeah, okay...Simon Bolivar Buckner, was quite a unique (?), charismatic character...he was in charge of the Army in Alaska...and he was subsequently killed by a grenade in a freak accident in the South Pacific somewhere right after the war, it was just too bad...General Butler was in charge of the air force in Alaska...General Corlett, I think he was a general in the Army after Buckner...and in charge of the Navy was a Admiral Kinkaid...those were all friends of my parents...other names that come to mind that mother used to talk about a lot

was a chap who was in charge of the "Kodiak Bear" which was the naval station newspaper...his name was Roy Kraft, and he had a great sense of humor which I think helped keep the morale of the Navy men up...they didn't have anything much to do...it was pretty hard keeping your morale up sitting around somewhere a long way from home, without your family and you don't feel like you're doing something useful...but he helped a lot, he was good for (?) morale...and then there was the armed forces radio...the Rotary Club, as a matter of fact, financed the first radio and the military took it over and it was the armed forces radio and it was our only radio station for years...I think it started about then...Names of people who touched the family, there was a young marine named Danny Hogue who came from the east coast, a very enterprising young fellow that captured the heart of my parents so he spent a lot of time out at the house...he was one heck of a enterprising trader and everything he traded or sold made a profit and that impressed my Dad very much...he wasn't very good at that sort of thing and he thought this was a really enterprising young man...and he subsequently did (?) become quite well-to-do on the east coast after he got out of the military...he was in the marines here and spent a lot of time in our house and helped chop wood and we drank beer together...I took him swimming one day and in the raft (?) we anchored off one (?) point in the ocean with a little diving tower and a diving board...that might surprise you that people would recreational swim in the ocean...and he was pretty perky and willing to take a dip in the ocean...we didn't swim in a leisurely fashion but dive in and get out in a hurry...one day, I'll never forget, he brought a friend, a southerner, a marine, a slow talker with a drawl and I said, "Hey, how'd you like to go swimmming?"... "Oh, you swim up here? Sure!"...Okay, he said, so we got into a little skiff and rowed out to where we had the anchor (?), put on our suits, a nice warm sunny day like we used to have, rode out to the raft-a pretty-good sized raft and Danny and I knew what was going to happen, you know...he hadn't put his fingers in the water, he didn't know...and so I ran out to the end of the board and dove in, made a very great effort not to blow my breath out and puff and huff when I came up and I swam back leisurely to the raft and Danny did the same thing...and that took some doing because you tend to lose your breath the moment you hit that water...it's in the low 50's...so this guy, this fellow came out to the end and jumped off the board and he almost came out of the water before he went in...I've never seen anybody surface so fast...and he came back to the raft panting and gasping for breath...we had a wonderful laugh out of that...it wasn't very kind...anyway, that was some of adventures with some of the servicemen here...I don't remember any others...I think there was a Navy man who came up to the house who

my folks kind of adopted and treated like parents, which was nice...he was a long way from home...ahh, who else...well, you heard me talking to Mom about the USO, there was a fellow named Howard Demarest who came up here and set up the USO in the apartment building my folks eventually owned...they didn't at the time...and a lot of people came through here in the entertainment business and performed for the troops...I can't remember all of them but I remember Joe E. Brown, I remember Errol Flynn who my mother said was not worthy of listening to (?)...well, I won't tell you...she didn't think he was very ethical or very moral, that he was too base (?)...Errol Flynn was one of my heroes and it was hard to hear that kind of thing about him...he was a rough and tumble swashbuckling pirate most of the time...but USO had dances for the guys and all the local women turned out and danced with the seaman (?) and the military boys and sailors and they had square dances and the little town did its best to be a good host to the military...there were 12,000 troops at one time, I have down in my notes...and that's Army...and 3000-3500 naval personnel, officers and men...so that swelled our population by about 15,500 in addition to the growth in town...we had 26,500, that's a figure I have in my notes for the early '40s.. (over)

LE: Dr. Johnson, my next question is what kind of effect did the War have how your family made a living or how they conducted their living, or the citizens of Kodiak...and I guess what I'm asking here is can you tell me anything, did they go through the rationing system that we did back in Wisconsin or blackout drills or what kind of situation were they in?

BJ: Okay...we, as soon as Dutch Harbor was bombed, Kodiak went on blackout...Dutch Harbor was bombed about, let me see, '42, June of '42...then we went into blackouts and that meant that every window had to have a framed opaque inner shield so no light would escape from the house...so Kodiak was blacked out totally...automobiles could drive with a little slit on the headlights...there weren't many automobiles but there were more as time went on...I remember my Dad going out calls in the blackout with his car and not using any lights, driving by the silhouettes of the trees and the houses...he didn't always manage to stay on the road...one night in particular he went off the road and couldn't get back on the road...but that was interesting, I can remember going out the back of the house and trying to find my way downtown to go to the movie in the pitchblack...you couldn't use flashlights either unless they were covered

with red paper...and you could kind of get pretty good at being able to hear obstacles like trees in a yard, and if you ever moved around in the dark in a very familiar place, you know you feel some kind of sound wave come back, some kind of wave come back from an obstacle as you get close to it and you get pretty good at reading that...yes, we did have blackouts everynight...and, let me see, here's an interesting quote from the "Mirror" - "January 17, 1942, a new order has been issued by military authorities that henceforth the masking of lights must be done with red instead of blue cellophane...red flashlights appeared in great numbers last night in stores...we are having a run on the new color"...that was in the "Kodiak Mirror"...we did have a civil defense force...the civilian community was organized and I thought that E.J. Erskine was in charge of that, I know I was to be a messenger boy...in case there were any hostilities, I got to drive a little dinky car that Mrs. Erskine owned and I could hardly wait for hostilities to break out but they never did...so I could drive the car...how did it effect us other than the blackouts?...well, not much really, life went on as usual except for our town was burgeoning...just to give you an idea I have here right in front of me just a minute ago, remember I just read off to you what we have in town...when we got here...I just came across what we had in town a few minutes ago (looking through notes)...there it is...in 1943, okay...I'll do that in a minute but I want to tell you one other thing...here's a interesting quote that tells you something about the plight of the military man in Kodiak...this is taken out of the "Mirror" - "May 23, 1942, I am a soldier. In town the other day, I met a sailor. The two of us agreed on several things. We didn't care to visit the ladies of easy virtue; we didn't care to sit and drink coffee - a drink or two would not be bad but what to do after that. We walked out past Al's Chicken Inn. Next time we'll walk out the other way. Then what?"...there wasn't much to do in Kodiak but for somebody who was used to living somewhere else...for us in Kodiak it was skating, hiking, there was hunting, there was a lot to do, we thought...but for somebody who was used to organized activity outside there wasn't much to do and there were a lot of them in the service...here in 1943 after four years of growth that was the result of the naval station being built we had 8 bars, (END OF SIDE ONE)...2 churches, a hospital-(?) the Griffin Memorial Hospital-it's now the Mental Health Center, 3 transfer companies, an ice cream parlor, 2 liquor stores, a movie theater, armed forces radio, 2 drug stores, a cab company, a phone system, a community water supply, an electric association-KEA, a police force, the city government, mayor and council, and a bank...we had 41 businesses listed in the "Kodiak Mirror"...we had a

population of 28,500 including the military...that tells you something about the growth. Now where were we?

LE: What kind of changes did you see happening to people who were living in the villages outside of Kodiak, and I'm thinking of the natives especially. Were they effected to any degree or did life kind of go on the same for them?

BJ: As far as I know the villages weren't really touched much by the military...I suppose when they came to town it was a little wilder than it was when they came to town before...but they spent a lot of time in the villages and didn't spend a lot of time in town except occasionally...so I'm not sure but I don't think they were effected too much...Oh, there's one other thing I forgot, there was a newspaper in town since 1940...I didn't list that among the things I just mentioned...that began in 1940 and the guy that started it was Gene Dawson...and it came out as a weekly and it was mimeographed, a sixteen page mimeographed paper...I was one of the printer's devils when it started...okay, I don't think the villages were much effected by the war...I don't know whether they had blackouts or not...Oh, hey, here's the other thing that happened that I know about...there's a little village, a psuedo village, a fake village on the other side of the naval station where Holiday Beach is now...do you know where that is?...okay, they had a simulated village with a lot of upset (?) boxes and lights in them...and we'd turn out all our lights when there was a blackout, of course, and so would the naval station... and that little village would go on at night, and in case somebody came around and dropped any bombs, we hoped that they'd drop them there...nobody ever came around and dropped anything, as you know, but we had unidentified planes fly over and we had moments of excitement at that time...all the closer the war got to us us in Kodiak...ah, you did ask about rations...

LE: Yeah.

BJ: No such thing in Kodiak. There never has been rationing in Kodiak...there never has been a problem here that has reflected the same problems that you had in the south 48 or continental United States...we are too, of course, but I still think some people think we are a foreign country...they still write and ask for a sample of our currency as a matter of fact...did you know that?...not very often, used to be all the time...but we were

encouraged to horde, we we encouraged to buy a large supply of canned goods and store them because, it was felt, we might be cut-off from our source of supply...and they wanted us to have some supply on hand, some food on hand (?)...so we were encouraged to horde...and there was never any shortage here...we didn't have any gasoline rationing, any kind of rationing here.

LE: Dr. Bob, I know that there have been a lot of changes to Kodiak since the time you described that sleepy town with basically a seasonal occupation with salmon...I know the fishing industry has changed just a whole lot since then, and it's been through different like of stages, but what do you think, what kind of lasting effect has World War II brought to Kodiak? Do you see any long term effects that the war caused outside of, you know, I'm not looking for changes in the fishing industry, I don't think probably the war caused that but any other changes (?)

BJ: I wouldn't have attributed the growth of the community to the war...it began to grow then and it had a big spurt then...it would have grown anyway, it would have grown to the same size it has now...it would have started out more slowly but the same natural resources, the same fisheries have been present all along and they would have been discovered and developed...so the War didn't really influence us that much except it did get the city incorporated and it did get an organized government going and gave us the structure that facilitated the subsequent growth...that would have come in time, too, so I don't really think that looking at the long term situation our growth is based on our natural resources and not on the war...there are a couple of things, though, that were influenced by that...you know about Fort Abercrombie...Fort Abercrombie is being developed as a historic site and is a historic site because of the role it played in the war...there was Army deployed out there...in fact, I forgot to mention there was Army deployed all over the place on various points and in various gun and lookout stations...Long Island had a big contingent of Army...Chiniak did...Abercrombie did...Miller Point did...and they had lookout towers and guns, presumably to guard the harbor against enemy ships...but Abercrombie has become a, or least it is being developed or trying to develop by the Park Service as a historic monument to World War II and the Aleutian War and they have done quite a bit of that...so that in a sense has contributed to Kodiak...it has created some history that we

are now using for a tourist attraction and for our own enrichment...a number of, that's one thing...a number of...well, I can think of another spin-off that benefitted us personally and a number of people...all those Army buildings in the village that is now USA homes, what did you call it...Nemetz Park...

LE: Nemetz Park, yeah...

BJ: All the Army buildings there were built out of grade one fir and they were all demolished by local contractors and the lumber was sold...and we bought all the lumber that went into this house or at least the framing of this house at \$60 a thousand for grade one fir which was the best you could get, and lumber was never cheaper or never more available than it was at that time...it helped us build a lot of things in Kodiak at less cost...I suppose they would have been built later but that was a boost (?)...quite a few service people, quite a few people from the Army met and married and stayed in Kodiak...Ole Johnson, who recently died, was buried, chamber of commerce, mayor of the city of Kodiak and manager of Kodiak Electric Association...and for years served in the Army (?)...and a number of other veterans (?) did...a number of Navy boys decided they wanted to stay in Kodiak...so the war, the military occupation of the Army camp and the naval station contributed to our population direct, okay...I can't tell you numbers but there are quite a few...both Navy and Army people and some Marines who were here and civil service workers who came up (?)...so it contributed to us that way...but Kodiak wouldn't be much different with the exception of the absence of Fort Abercrombie and certain number of our residents were there no war or no naval station.

LE: Thank you, Dr. Bob, before we close I'd like you to have any opportunity you what here to share anything else you think is kind of important when we think back to those years...and I know that's a real open question, but if there's something else that you can think of that would be interesting to us, you sure have some minutes to share here.

BJ: I never thought of that question...I never thought of the war as anything more than a little item of history that had been in Kodiak...I haven't sat down and analyzed it's influence on us as a community except tonight and I've already told you that I thought it didn't really influence us a great deal as a community and I thought we would

be where we are now even if it were not for the war...but there were a lot of little things and I just remembered a few more...the Army built a lot of roads and if you have driven the back woods and gone out to the base and explored a bit in your car you find that a lot of them are still passable...they built the road from the top of Pillar Mountain to way out to join the road that cuts back in on the way to the airport...that road was passable until just a few years ago...

LE: By Swampy Acres?

BJ: Yeah, Swampy Acres or Windy Valley we used to call it...Swampy Acres, I think, is what you call it...yeah, it goes down into Swampy (?)...and you could drive that with a four-wheeled vehicle up until just a few years ago...they built a road behind Old Womans Mountain back over into Bells Flats from the airport...and there are roads all over there...they built the road that your just drove in, the Army built that road into here...this was a searchlight site right here and there was a submarine net between here and Woody Island...I had forgotten about that...and the submarine net, of course, isn't there anymore but the road is still there...and there are roads, I'm sure, that people are using that were built back in those days...but these are things that would probably be there anyway...so I don't see how the war effected us much differently than it effected everybody else...wars are devastating...people are killed and people are lost and some of our people were in the service and some of our people were lost and that happens...I'm not sure more people are killed in wars than accidents in peacetime or by their own means or illness or what have you so that may not be a pertinent argument...so I guess in summary I say I don't see that the war had a great deal of effect on Kodiak as I started with the same premise...and that we would be pretty much the same now as we are...whether we had a war or whether we had a naval station or whether we had Army or not with the exception of the people who lived here and stayed.

LE: Okay, well, I'd like to thank you very much, Dr. Bob Johnson, for spending your time with us this evening and giving us this information that we hope to include a oral history project.

This file is part of the Kodiak History Project.

For an index of other recordings in this collection see the index:

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