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Kate McClennan

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Dawson City, Yukon

Fiona McCanna reads stories by Kate McClunnen. The story describes malemute huskies. Jack Kyle once ran out of food for his dogs and fed them from his own grub. The lead dog attacked one dog to make all the other dogs drop their food. Another story about "Joe" who made a trip over the Tanana. He had to feed his dogs his boots when he ran out of food. He ended up removing the dogs' tails to feed them. They could then make it to the Fortymile.

Kate McClennan is interviewed by Harrie Hughes. She came from a large family in Bavaria. There were fifteen children. She had an aunt in the Yukon who sent her a ticket. She left Germany with very little money. She was five weeks on the road. She married Mr. Kaiser. He died after nine years. She had two sons, Karl and George Kaiser. She married Mr. McClennan who was a druggist in Dawson after being a widow for fifteen years. Her sons were married by that time. George Kaiser is an interior decorator and lives in Victoria. Karl Kaiser is in Montreal and works as a civil engineer. He attended the University of Alaska. When it was time for him to start school he walked from Dawson to Fairbanks. He graduated in 1941. She has always lived in Dawson.

Harrie Hughes talks with John Carvell. He is 90 years old. John is from Norway. He still has relatives in Norway. They came into Dawson in 1897. They didn't know about the stampede until they arrived in Juneau. Ron Vanbëbber was born in 1877 and came to Dawson in 1898. He cut wood and drove a dog team in the winter. He freighted from Dawson to Skagway. He never staked. He was always out of town when there was a discovery. There were stampedes to the benches. He has thirty-four grandchildren and great grandchildren. His daughter, Lucy, lives in Calgary. He has two daughters in Fairbanks.

Andy Wicken interviews John Carvell. John came to the United States when he was twenty years old. The family moved to Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Michigan. He worked in the iron mines in Michigan. He then moved to Tacoma. He then moved to Dawson when he was twenty-five years old. He married Miss Angerstad. He has a daughter in Vancouver. She works for a the White Pass and Yukon. His son is a fisherman. He left Dawson and came to Fairbanks in 1938 or 39. In Fairbanks he worked for the Road Commission and then he worked at Ladd Field. He was a watchman or guard. His house was removed in Fairbanks because a road was constructed on that spot. He worked as a machinist. He now lives in Dawson.

Ron Vanbëbber left Dawson in 1900 and went to Selkirk. In the winter he drove a dog team. He was a roustabout. He was a trader and a trapper. He married an Indian woman and raised a family. He talked about the murders that were committed in the Lliard area. They ran into some of the tribe at the Lliard post. He talked about trapping in the winter in the Nihannie River area. They had to take shelter during a bad storm. They slept on their skins. They caught rabbits to feed themselves and their dogs after chasing

them into snares. After they were in timber they could hunt moose. At Pelley Quarters they took up a grubstake. They went into Dawson in 1906. Everyone was sad in Dawson because they had heard about the earthquake and fire in San Francisco. A lot of people in Dawson had relatives in San Francisco. Ron talked about Sam Norris. The trappers always got money from Sam to go trapping. Ron's brother lived in Fairbanks. His name was Theodore Vanbebber. John and Ron talk about the first time they met each other. Ron talked about the socialist paper that was published in Dawson in 1912. He worked on the number 3 and 4 dredges when they were being built. He went back to Selkirk after working in Dawson in 1912. He had his wife and three children there.

John talked about the papers in Dawson. They were getting papers from the Outside at that time in the summertime. Ron said the first newspaper was published by Bill Swinehart in Dawson. Ron said he was run out of Dawson. He went over to Selkirk. John said he was on the creek much of the time during this period. Interviewer asked about Saddlemeier. Ron said he didn't know much about him. Ron said he would be out on the creeks for six or eight months of the year. He was acquainted with Saddlemeier but didn't know him well. The interviewer asked about the saloons in Dawson. Ron said he didn't dance and drink the stuff they sold in the saloons. The liquor they sold in the saloons wasn't good. They sold it when it was a few days old. At one time he was in Montana and worked as being a cowboy. He traveled around with his brother and they came into Dawson. His brother ran the twelve mile roadhouse. He also ran a roadhouse at Selkirk. In 1943 he came to Fairbanks to visit his brother. His brother was guiding and trapping. Ron said there are a lot of good pioneer stories that are buried with the pioneers. In 1906 it was a dry summer. The miners worked hard and created big dumps. There wasn't any water and they called in a rainmaker named Hatfied. If he brought rain he was going to get a lot of money. He left without being paid the big money. Chief Isaac said he could bring in rain better than the white man. It started raining after that. It flooded the country and took the big dumps out into the river. It left the gold and they said the streets were paved with gold. Ron said he later read an account of Hatfield and the facts were wrong.

John Calvell talked about the claims he bought and sold. He wasn't mining in the proper place. There were streaks of gold in places and not very thick in other places. He quit mining and went to work for wages. He created a machine for gold mining.

Ron talked about the hunting laws for moose. He talked about undesirables being sent out of the country. He said at one time part of the area was claimed by France. Ron said he quit going to school when he was fifteen years. He rode the rails. Ron talked about Charlie and Elsie McDowell.