

H97-175-26
Harrie Hughes
Frank P. Young
Fairbanks, Alaska
1961

Harrie Hughes talked about being born in Linden, Indiana in 1899. Two of his brothers were also born in Linden. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1905. His father was a building contractor. He had three brothers and one sister. Both of his parents have passed away. They lived near Whittier and Montebelo, California. He worked in the boat yards during WWI. He later moved to Prescott, Arizona. He later returned there to wire buildings. He has worked as an electrician. He worked in the moving picture studios up until 1924. He drove from Los Angeles to Everett, Washington. He found a job working for Dallinger. He worked there for about twelve years. He later got back into the electrical business. He talked about entertainment in the area. He moved to Seattle and worked as a serviceman for a radio house. They were shipping radios to Alaska. In 1925 he went to Ketchikan for a short visit. He worked repairing a cannery that had been damaged by a storm and high tide. He returned Washington. He met Mike Dozier who was from Alaska. In 1936-37 he went to Seward and then moved to Fairbanks. He worked for the Alaska Railroad for a period of time. He worked as a gandy dancer and then worked on a bridge gang. He worked with Chris Clawson, Jack Hanson, Johnny Blackman, Carlson, and Sid Sheldon. He talked about Ma Green and Bill Green who were located in Healy, Alaska. He once tried to get their help with Gene Tivus. Gene had once worked for the railroad. He managed to get Gene moved to a hospital before he died. He knew Jack Belay who lived by the Healy mine bridge. Andrew Dregich was a trapper outside of Fairbanks. He later started a roadhouse at Healy. He eventually married Hala Shannon. Harrie talked about Mary Thompson. He never worked for Cap Lathrop. Harrie lived off the country. Harrie talked about meeting Louis Giddings. He met Ivar Skarland when he was taking the census on skis.

25:30 Frank P. Young was born in Seattle, Washington. He came to Juneau in 1896 with his parents. They were in Dawson for a while. They came to Fairbanks in 1905. He sold papers when he was a boy. He knew many people of early Fairbanks. Frank talked about Walter Rumors. He was a miner on some of the creeks. Frank said the whole town burned down in 1906. Some of the boats that came into Fairbanks were the Julia B and Lavelle Young. When water was low they would have to stop at Chena. Harrie asked him about Chena. Frank said they had navigation at Chena. He said they had stores, a light plant, and a newspaper. Harrie asked about Joe Oates. Frank said he was a blacksmith in town. Frank took in all the stampedes in the country. He did a lot of mining on the local creeks. He carried mail by dogsled in the Koyukuk country. He did some steamboating in the early days. Harrie asked about outfitting himself with the dog teams. Frank said they carried three hundred pounds of mail. They made the trip once a month. They carried very little perishables. They went to Tanana and then over to Wiseman. It was approximately four hundred and fifty miles. They had some tough times. The weather

was cold. There were cold snaps while they were on the trail. One trip he was close to freezing to death. He had several close calls. One time they stayed in a relief cabin about 80-100 miles from Tanana. They stayed there for ten days. After running out of food for the dogs and themselves they decided to set out for Wiseman. He traveled with Roy Lund. It was so cold they couldn't set up the tent. [Bill Burke was carrying the mail into the Kuskokwim] They managed to get a fire going and thawed out enough to set up the tent. It might have been sixty or seventy below. Harrie asked about emergency equipment. Frank said they carried axes, matches, birch bark, and food for a week. They carried mostly beans and bacon and a sourdough pot. They also carried jerky and sometimes salmon strips. He would carry it in the hood of his parka so he could get to it easily when he was hungry. Harrie asked him if he knew John Oulette. Frank said he knew him called him French John. Frank said he met him on the Salcheck. He was poling a boat. He was a good river man. Harrie talked about John Oulette moving the Rivers family into Fairbanks. Frank said John was able to shoot two otters and a fish at one time. Frank talked about trapping marten. Harrie and Frank talked about old man Barlow. Harrie talked about Jack Delay who was a freighter. Frank Young and his wife had ten children: Frank, Thomas J., his oldest daughter, Francis, Hannah, and a son in New Mexico,