

H97-66-22 Pt. 4  
Anna Thorson Larson  
Unidentified interviewer  
30:00 minutes in length  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Anna Thorson Larson came to Fairbanks in 1907-1910. She lived on Eighth and Barnette Streets in a log cabin. The NC Company had their trail to the wood yard. She left Fairbanks and went to the Iditarod in 1910. They followed the ice down and traveled up the Innoku River. They landed at Dikeman first. The town of Iditarod was just a camp town at the time. ~~They~~<sup>She</sup> remembers the mud up to her knees and the mosquitoes. Her husband was working for Ida Woods when they first lived in Fairbanks at a sawmill. He was working for the People's store.

She was born in Norway. She lived in Tacoma, Washington before she came to Alaska. She had arrived in Tacoma in 1904 and lived there three years. They came up on the boat to Skagway and then on a train to Whitehorse. They traveled down the Yukon River. When they reached Tanana they transferred to a smaller boat for the trip to Fairbanks. They landed in front of the NC Company. Chena was a large town at the time. She worked in the Cleary City area. They worked at a boarding house at the Lower Nine Mine. They came out to Cleary on a stagecoach. The following winter she worked at a boarding house at Sixteen Below Dome (Dome Creek) It was all placer mining. She went to watch a clean up. She went out to Chatanika and went down one of the mine shafts. You had to ride in buckets and they used lanterns for light.

She went Outside from 1918 until 1922. She went into the Takotna region on the Kuskokwim. She traveled up to Bettles in 1922.

When she was at the Iditarod she knew Mrs. Brewer. Her husband was working for the Guggenheimers. They were mining on Flat Creek. Her daughter was born in Iditarod. She traveled back to Norway in 1939 and 1964. She still speaks and writes Norwegian. She knew the Higgins family who operated the store at Takotna. Later the NC Company took over the store.

She talks about the River boys. The father married a telephone operator and later lived in Fairbanks.

When they lived in Iditarod her father was freighting with a boat. He also worked at a sawmill during the winter.

She had a roadhouse in Takotna.

Carl Stanburg and his wife lived in the Iditarod. Lots of people used to live over in Flat Creek.

Interviewer asked about the gold that came out of Iditarod and Flat. Anna said that there was and there's still gold there. Otter Creek was rich. Stanburg made his money there.

Interviewer asked about Yankee Creek. Anna said there were a lot of bachelors in that area that she can't remember.

She didn't remember the trappers in Takotna. Interviewer asked if Jim Berry started Takotna. Interviewer asked her about White Dog Smith.

She also knew Turnip Mike.

There was a discussion about Berry's Landing.

Her brother was partners with the Dutch Kid. They mined together for a while. They had some machinery at Rampart.

Her brother's name was Dick Thorson. Her brother worked at Eielson.

She talked about Fairbanks during the world war and the scarcity of some products.

Albert ran a liquor store at that time and had a lot of business. She talked about the Russians in town. They were transporting planes from Nome to Russia.

They just missed going on the Sopphia. They were in Seattle when the Sopphia went down. They knew a lot of people on that boat.

It took them three weeks from Iditarod to Whitehorse. They traveled on a little steamer Washburn. Captain Josey was the captain. When they got to Whitehorse the town was full. Every one was waiting to go Outside.

The interviewer asked if they had low water when they were traveling up to Whitehorse. Anna said it was pretty good in the fall. They had to travel through Rapids into Whitehorse.

They used to have the mail teams stop at the roadhouse at Takotna. One of the mail carriers was Ernie Beazy (Beady?). They had enough room at the roadhouse for thirty people. They used horses to haul in freight. There was a dredge on Gaines Creek. The interviewer thought Arthur Higgins had an interest in the dredge. This was in 1922-1923.

The roadhouse was called the Larson Roadhouse. They built the roadhouse themselves. They had a large dining room. They had enough room to have dances. They also had Christmas dinners there. She charged five dollars a night for breakfast and dinner and a dollar fifty for just meals. She said they had a little school at Takotna.

She talked about her family in Fairbanks.