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Fred Walker

Nome, Alaska

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Pt. 1 Fred Walker talks about visiting St. Michaels Bay and seeing all the ships in the bay. He was visiting T'juk. He was from the Fish River area. T'juk was wondering what all the people were there for. Someone showed him a bag of gold. When T'juk went to Ophir to trapped squirrels and he looked for gold in the streams. He found gold in a stream and sent it to John Dexter and said send up some prospectors. He sent it to the AC Company in St. Michaels and four prospectors started traveling up to Ophir. They were frozen in at Golovin. T'juk was too busy trapping to attend to the prospectors. In April he came down to show the prospectors where to look for gold in Ophir at Sweetcake Creek. He said John Dexter was a very generous man. He worked in goods. In 1899 Fred went down to Nome. He went to Anvil Creek and talked to Gabe Price. He got a job working for the Wild Goose properties for a few years. There were reports of gold on the beach. There were six soldiers and Lt. Spalding to oversee the camp. The soldiers ended up panning for gold on the beach. People were getting 200-300 dollars a day from beach mining. His partner made a rocker and they mined on the beach. He met Key Pittman on the beach. Key knew Fred's mother. Key was a lawyer. When he first started working on the beach there were a couple of hundred men. After a few months there were many more men on the beach and lots of fighting. There was a certain group that tried to claim the beach. There were six or eight of them. They tried to make the men working on the beach to pay a fee for a permit. His partner went to buy a permit even though Fred didn't think it was a good idea. The soldiers started checking for permits. People were arrested who didn't have permits. When they couldn't feed them they had to turn them loose. He talks about Key Pittman again who later became a state senator.

Fred worked for the Bureau of Education. He went to work in Elim. He was married and had a big family. Thomas W. Schultz was a teacher. He had been working in many places before Elim. His wife was a childhood friend of Fred. During the Spanish flu they were short on teachers because of quarantine. Fred volunteered to teach. Will Evans came up to teach in the month of March. Fred wanted to quit at the end of the school year. He was paid for nine months of work. Another teacher never arrived during the school year. Key Pittman sent him a letter. In April he received a letter with a contract for the next school year. So Fred decided to stay and teach. He was transferred over to White Mountain about 1924. He took an exam in Nome and was given the clearance to teach up to the eighth grade. Fred taught in the first school at Koyuk. He didn't have a building assigned to him. All of the school supplies were at Isaac Point and had to be picked up. They had to make furniture out of driftwood. He talked to the parents about making sure their kids attended school. He had forty-two students. Charlie Jones also came into town. He was musical.

One Saturday he was called to attend a meeting. One of the hunters was very sick and

before he died he confessed that he committed a crime. He had shot a cousin in the back when he was hunting and accused an innocent man. The innocent man was killed. Fred taught for sixteen years. He last taught in Koyuk. The Board of Education was charging him for renting a house even though they didn't own a house in the town and Fred wasn't happy about it. He did get a contract to teach at Little Diomedes but his wife didn't want to go.

He was running a dog team to Nome for his uncle. They stopped at a beach location and saw black and red sand. This was right at Daniel Creek. His partner was Frank Komarov.

Pt. 2 Fred again talks about working for Gabe Price at Anvil Creek. Frank Komarov and Fred worked on the beaches panning for gold. He met Jim McClellan. He told him to look for black and ruby sand. He describes what the gold rush looked like on the beaches of Nome. He again talks about having to pay for permits to pan for gold. When Fred wouldn't pay for a permit he was arrested, but they were later released.

Fred went back to the Daniel Creek site. Billy Hunter was his partner. Fred lost his claims in Nome because he was underage. He was still not twenty-one and needed Billy Hunter to stake the claim. He finally found a kayak to use at a price. They found gold right away. When Billy Hunter wouldn't stake Fred headed to St. Michaels to find his mother. While he was away other people staked the claim. When Fred was in St. Michaels he contracted typhoid fever. Fred was later found to be the original discoverer and was given a partnership. He later sold his interest for 12,000.