

H97-66-62
Trip to Dawson
August 15, 1962
Pt. 1. Side A

In the car are Andrew Wicken, John (Chance?) Whazen, and Harrie Hughes (?). They start the tape about eighteen miles outside Fairbanks. They started their trip at 2:20 in the morning. John said this is his first trip to Dawson for the Gold Rush Festival. Andrew has been to Dawson a couple of times. John said he went over this road when it was hardly a trail in 1910. They didn't have many bridges. They waded through the streams. They had a roadhouse at Richardson. It was seventy-five miles outside of Fairbanks. He was in the country for forty-one years before he went back to the states. Harrie said they were passing Eielson Air Force Base. They pass by the Big Salcha River. Andrew said there was a lot of salmon going up the river. They comment that the river was very low. They will be traveling 436 miles to Dawson City. At Birch Lake they see moose feeding along the side of the road. At Tenderfoot Creek on the Richardson Highway they see moose. At 4:10 they are at mile 290 on the Richardson Highway. At 4:15 they cross Shaw Creek. At 5:00 they are at mile 1407 on the Alaska Highway. At 5:20 they cross the Big River between Tok and Big Delta. At 6:00 they are at mile 1359 on the Alaska Highway. At 6:15 they cross Robinson River at mile 1347 on the Alaska Highway. They stop at a point past Dodd Lake. They stop at the Post service station which is run by Dale Young of Fairbanks. It is exactly 208 miles from Fairbanks. They turn off the Alcan Highway to the Dawson Road. They are 107 miles to Dawson City at 7:45 in the morning. They stop at mile 23-24 on the Dawson Highway at 8:25 in the morning. At 9:26 they are fifty-eight miles from the Alaska Highway. At 9:50 they are at Chicken and stop to take photographs of the dredge and the camp. At 10:08 they pass Bob McCombs place. They stop at mile 67. They see moose at the lake below the road. They stopped at the old Franklin Smith camp to take photographs of the shovel. At 11:50 they stop at George King's roadhouse. They stop and visit with George. He is 70 years old and was born in 1893.

Harrie talks with Albert Blaire Miller who was born in 1924 in Seattle and came to Alaska in 1928. He came through Skagway, over White Pass and took a trip by paddleboat down the river. Harrie talks about the wildlife that they have seen along the road. Mrs. King said their nearest neighbor was Jack and Bessie Wilkie. George Gilbertson mines in the area. The Killians also mine in the area. George Robson was mining at the old Stampy camp. Harrie talked about his week and his work. They discuss Earl Zink. Albert said he attended school with Earl Zink in Juneau. Harrie talked about all the tapes he had collected in the past three years. At 12:14 they were at the immigration station on the Canadian border. At 1:20 they stop at a spring about thirty miles from Dawson. Harrie talks with a young man, Terry Millen, who joined them at the customs office for the trip into Dawson. He talked about his family. They pass the twenty-four mile cabin which was a roadhouse when the road was being constructed. They stop at the Yukon River in Dawson City. Harrie said the highest pass on the way to Dawson was 4,515 feet. At 3:10 they are in Dawson City.

August 16. Thursday morning. Harrie talks about their morning in Dawson. Andy talked about Christensen who is a trapper that mines on the Victoria Creek a tributary of the

Bonanza Creek. Andy also met Black Mike who is ninety years old and a well-known figure in Dawson. John talks about a gentleman who he met from the Billingham area on the Canadian side. John said that everyone sleeps in until noon and then opens up their businesses late.

11:25. Katie McClennan joins them for a ride out to the mining area. They are going out to the Bonanza B. Mine. Katie McClennan showed them how to pan gold. They move on to the working area of the Bonanza B. Mine. Harrie described all the equipment. There is a deep wall shaft at the mine. They move to twelve miles outside of Dawson City to one of the largest dredges in North America. Katie talked about Mike Popovich. Katie didn't think the miners in the area made a lot of money, but they were content to make enough to survive. They passed the Discovery Monument on the Bonanza River. They continued to travel upstream. Katie talked about George Clark living by himself in a cabin. They stopped at a cabin owned by Madam Drombley. She married Mr. LaCraugh in her later years. They moved Outside after ten years. They visited with Pete Pompivitchka. Pete talked about making raisin wine. Pete is a Serbian. They talked about Tommy Welch.

Back in Dawson. Katie talked about the bridge that went over to Lousetown on the Klondike River. It was washed out in 1912. The residents then traveled by boat and cable car. The red light district was located in Lousetown. The town was later abandoned. Harrie talked about meeting up with Frank and Dolly Young.

Pt. 1. Side B

Harrie talked with Frank Young. Frank talked about his trip from Fairbanks to Dawson. Chance and Andy talked about an old miner's cabin that they visited. Andy and Harrie described a pioneer's cemetery that they visited.

Chance told a story about the marshal, Jim Hagen looking for an outlaw who came to Dawson by boat. They didn't want the outlaw to settle in Dawson City. Jim Hagen told the man to get back on the boat. Many years later Jim met up with the man who had gone on to become a good man. They discussed another marshal named Stan Nichols and his murder. Harrie talked about Johnny Swagler. Chance talked about Frank Wiseman who left town after a shooting.

Harrie talked with Leroy (?) Durich, from Eagle. He was born in Hungaria. He brought twelve youngsters with him.

August 17, 1962. Harrie said they spent the evening at the community hall. He talked about the entertainment for the previous evening and his morning activities in Dawson. Harrie talked about a building where Frank Young's father once ran a store and the photographs he takes around the town. Harrie described the Sunset Home in Dawson that is run by the Canadian government. The rent is based on their earnings. He visited with a few of the residents of the home.

He talked briefly with Teddy Watch.

Harrie taped part of the parade in Dawson. He marched with other pioneers in the parade. 4:40 p.m. Harrie is at the Dawson City airport. Several people were there to greet the Governor Egan.

Harrie described the dedication of the old theater in Dawson that took place that evening. Governor Egan was the principle speaker. Andy Whicken described the day.

Saturday morning. Harrie talked about the days activities. They visited an old store in Dawson. He described some of the old buildings in Dawson.

After a tire repair he visited with a Fairbanks resident, Arlene Darling. He talked with Mr. Culbough about all of his visitors. He had participated in the parade.

2:45. Harrie took Mr. and Mrs. George Black to visit the old folks home, the hospital and Sunset home. He took Bob Steele around to visit.

Sunday morning. Harrie started his trip home to Fairbanks with a stop at the Monte Carlo Café. Gladys and Noel Pennington are the owners of the café. After a late start because of flat tires they took the ferry across the river.

Harrie described the spring about thirty-five miles outside of Dawson. He talked with visitors from Nebraska about pioneer history and preservation efforts.

1:30. Harrie arrived at the crossing of the Canadian-Alaska border and on the way to Eagle, Alaska.

1:55. George King's lodge. Harrie talked about a dredge on Walker's Fork a tributary of the Forty-mile River.

4:00. Harrie was at a spring halfway between George King's roadhouse and Eagle.

5:30. Harrie arrived at Eagle, Alaska. He talked about the photos he took.

Pt. 2.

August 19, 1962.

Eagle, Alaska

6:00 p.m. Harrie talked with Andrew Gerhart from Fairbanks. Andrew was Hungarian. Andrew talked about a cabin where Wickersham held court in Alaska. Harrie talked about the military cemetery and various buildings in Eagle. Eagle had an airbase when the DEW line was active. They were still maintaining the airbase. They stop at the old Indian village cemetery on the banks of the Yukon River. Harrie visited the Native village at Eagle. He described the village on the Yukon River. They are about five miles from the Canadian border. He described the log-sod buildings with grass growing out of the roof. It is one of the oldest towns in Alaska. It is believed to be the first military base in the area.

Harrie interviewed with George McGregor. George was born in Missouri and came to Alaska in 1917. He settled in Eagle in 1957. He worked as a miner and was now retired. His claims were on a creek that emptied into Woodchopper. He trapped during the winter. Dean Patty was mining in the same area that George worked. He used wood to heat his cabin. There was an NC store in Eagle and he bought wood from the store. He is a member of the Pioneers of Alaska. He always hunted for his meat and planted a garden. Harrie talked about Norman Adley. George said there were about fifteen or twenty people living in Eagle. There were forty or fifty people living in the Native village. Wien operated the mail plane twice a week into town. He has enjoyed his life in Alaska. During the first war he served in the Army. He missed getting on the Sophia right before it sunk. He talked about the people that were lost in the accident. Harrie talked about Chance Langloe, George Parker and others in Central. George and Harrie talked about Henry Appel. George spent most of his life in Circle, Ft. Yukon and the Yukon River. He worked on the railroad for a couple of years and then returned to the Eagle area. John

talked about working on the Copper River Railroad and his walk from Valdez to Fairbanks.

Harrie visited with Richard Bauer. He came to Eagle in 1924. He worked for a short while at the AJ Mine before coming to Eagle. Richard talked about the coal deposits in the Eagle area. Richard commented about the population in the Eagle area in the past and how it has changed. Richard is a member of the Pioneers of Alaska. John and Richard talked about Jim Manula. Harrie talked about all the people they visited in Dawson.

Monday 6:30 a.m. Harrie is at the NC store in Eagle. Harrie talked with Edward Charles Carey. Edward talked about flying into the country. He thought that Eagle needs to be promoted as a historical site. Harrie talked about the cemeteries at Eagle and Circle. Edward worked for the CBC. They discussed the planned Rampart Dam. Harrie talked about the history of the area.

9:00 a.m. Harrie talked with Barney Hansen. He came to Eagle in 1929. Andy discussed Amund Hagen. Barney talked about mining in the Eagle district. He mined in the Seventy Mile, August Creek, Ester, Cripple Creek (where he worked for the FE Company), and the Eagle area.

10:25 Stopped at King Salomon Creek and described the campgrounds.

Stopped at the Forty-nine River Bridge. They continued to travel down the Taylor Highway.