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Mike Dalton, speaker

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Mike Dalton said there was a coal mine on the Meade River west of Barrow. She said people knew about the oil potential of the north. Cliff Bergland's stepfather Bill Foran had been with the USGS in the Arctic and had lots of maps. They had discovered oil seeps. The USGS worked for many seasons in the Arctic. The Seabees came in in 1945 and set up their camp. They started surface drilling in 1946. She talked about her samples of oil. One of them came from Cape Simpson. The Natives would use the frozen petroleum for fuel. She has a relic from the Colville River delta area, a jade ax. Jim Dalton had close relationships with a lot of Natives in the north.

Ron Inouye asked Mike Dalton when she arrived in Alaska and what her job was. Dalton said she came in 1949 and that was when she met Jim Dalton. They were married the following year. She was working for Ben Atkinson in Fairbanks. When she arrived in Fairbanks she couldn't find a hotel room so she ended up on Eva McGowan's couch. She worked for the News miner for ten years. They didn't have a travel budget so she traveled with her husband. She made twelve trips above the Arctic Circle in 1968-69. It was easy to get a ride south. She made a trip with Don Johns who was a pilot. She took a lot of photos on her trips and knew a lot of the cat drivers. She was a writer and would write up some of the engineering report synopses. She got a job with Arctic Contractors the first day after she got to Fairbanks.

Question from the audience about Judge Wickersham. Dalton said he was the first judge to come to Fairbanks. He was the first judge in Alaska and was assigned to Eagle. His house is in Pioneer Park. Wickersham was also a delegate to the United States Congress.

Question from the audience about identification in a photograph. Dalton wasn't sure who the person in the photograph was. Walter Hickel was also in the photograph. Dalton took a trip up the Dalton Highway in 1990 when Walter Hickel and Jack Coghill ran as an independent team for governor. When Jim Dalton first went up north he hired people from the village. When Jim Dalton hired for the DEW Line he had the first local hire battle in Alaska. The unions were unhappy about the situation. She identifies some of the photographs on the screen. She talked about what Barrow was like when she first went up including the use of ice cellars. She had a photo of Ann Stevens who died in 1968 in an aircraft accident. Dalton talked about knowing Ann Stevens.