

**Log of Topics**  
**Robert Martin, Sr., Interview by Conner Sorensen, April 3, 1986**  
**Juneau, Alaska**

**Time Elapsed                      Topics Discussed**

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Tape One, Side One

00-05            Topic of interview: Alaskan Native Participation in the CCC; Biographical background: born in Sitka 1914, moved to Yakutat, Cordova; discrimination in Cordova schools; moved to Juneau 1921; school in Juneau; joined Juneau ANB in 1928; secretary to Juneau ANB; Frank Mercer, President of Juneau ANB, a founder of ANB; discrimination in Juneau schools; out of school 1931-1937; to Sheldon Jackson school;

05-10            Mr. Yaw of Sheldon Jackson; incident at Sitka: Martin, Soboleff, Gibson Young denied jobs on CCC; finished school 1939; served ANB in Juneau and Sitka camps; Grand President, ANB; executive committee, ANB;

incident at Sitka, 1934, application to Forest Service-CCC denied; Bill Hollywood hired;

10-15            CCC projects in Sitka, totem restoration, seawall between cold storage and Federal building; Japonski Island; Native truck drivers on CCC projects; Martin worked at Sitka cold storage, cannery; hiring practices of federal agencies in 1930's; Martin worked as postmaster in Kake; discrimination in federal hiring; Bob Bartlett helped Martin;

15-20            Bureau of Fisheries hiring practices; Richard Harris; "Window Dressing" [tokenism] of Indian hiring; ANB efforts to end discrimination; Martin's work with Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1959, Post Office, State Government; ANB role in Sitka incident, efforts to open up hiring for Natives; Gibson Young, Ralph Young; ANB leaders, C. Don Miller, Cyril Zuboff, Frank Booth,

20-25            Frank Mercer, James Watson, James C. Johnson, Chester Worthington, Frank

Desmond, (Livingston Desmond), Walter Soboleff; goals and methods of ANB in 1920's and 1930's, school discrimination, right to vote, workman's compensation, Indian Reorganization Act, hospitals for Alaskan Natives, Tlingit-Haida land suit-1929; employment issues; ANB methods; ANB resolution to sell Alaskan Panhandle to

Canada, 1933;

25-30            politicians sympathetic to Native issues: Anthony Dimond, Bob Bartlett; reasons for politicians' interest: politics; attitude of contemporary politicians: Stevens, Young, Murkowski; attitude of

Governor [John W.] Troy; [Ernest] Gruening and Equal Rights Amendment [1945]; Verne [Metcalfe]; Mayor Isadore Goldstein; Annabel Simpson; Bob Simpson, Bob Maclean, Bob Henning;

30-35            memories of the Depression; Bob Leshner of Salvation Army; Martin worked in restaurant; Martin spent summers in Sitka; had been adopted by William Peter family in Sitka; Martin's father worked in A.J. mine as chute puncher, chute blaster; Hubert Martin; A.J. Mine employment practices; Charles Flory; William Paul-ANB role in challenging hiring discrimination;

35-40            Frank Heintzleman; Martin's work as timekeeper, typist for CCC foreman in Sitka; CCC crew chiefs in Sitka: Dick Tate; Ernie Torgenson;

Senate Hearings in Juneau, 1936; President Harding's death; CCC projects in Sitka: Halibut Point picnic grounds (Mark Jacob., Sr.), Ralph Young, Sr.; seawall from cold storage and Federal Building, Martin's truck driving experience; description of seawall;

40-45            totem restoration under Harold Bailey and George Benson; Martin as truck driver; taught others to drive: Louie Minard, Nick Kasakan; importance of CCC projects to Native communities; subsistence activities; problems of discriminatory law enforcement; Richard Tate;

Robert R. Martin, Sr., Interview, 3 April 1986, Tape One, Side Two

00-05            Mr. Yaw, Sheldon Jackson, his assistance to Native students; Andrew Hope; book by Yaw; CCC crew in Sitka, not many still alive, Nick Peters, Mark Jacobs, Nick Kasakan, Ralph Young, George Benson, Harold Bailey; George Benson, Harold Benson worked side by side; Nick Peters and crew built pole in center of building

[Sitka National Monument];Harold Bailey;

05-10 misconception of missionaries about totems; importance of CCC in reviving totem carving; George Benson, Andrew Hope, Harold Bailey, Robert Loescher; Louie Minard; Esther Littlefield; ANB continuing role in employment practices; question of separate camps for Native and white CCC workers; Sitka camp was not entirely segregated;

10-15 white crews worked on Mt. Verstovia trail, other projects during the earlier years (1933-36); trip to Silver Bay; white crews in earlier years; Ralph Young; CCC projects at Kake, dam breakwater; death of William Newton; Tommy Jackson; moving ANB hall from Treadwell to Juneau, 1922.

[End of Interview]