Call number: 02-00-87 SIDE B

Henry Roden

Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

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Series: Harry Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 7-inch reel, master copy on CD.

[Music] Someone [Henry Roden?] says that the first legislature was to organize the Territory so that Alaskans could make their own laws that would suit their way of life. He says that they didn't have a dollar in the treasury and they didn't get any money either, except for $0.15 dollars a mile for traveling expenses. It took them 30 days to get from their headquarters [in Washington?] to Juneau for which they didn't get compensation. They got $15 dollars a day and $3 dollars per session for stationary postage and whatever other expenses. They got $67,000 dollars to run the affairs of the territory for 2 years and from that money $10,000 dollars was set aside for starting the Alaska Pioneer's home in Sitka. It seems unbelievable for the speaker, that for every $1,000 they got appropriated back then, the current state gets almost a million.

Henry talks about traveling between Juneau and Washington. In the spring they went to Whitehorse and waited for the Lake Laberge to open so the steamers could start operating. The ice was holding out so long that they walked over the Lake Laberge and took a steamer out from the Thirtymile River and to Dawson, Fairbanks and to Iditarod where Henry resumed his law practice. He remained there until 1917, when the mining companies in Iditarod and Ruby had almost closed. Then Henry went to Juneau and started practicing law there. He was a member of Legislature in the 1st Division of the Senate for a couple of times. In 1941 he became the Attorney General and when his time expired he wanted to write his memoir.

In 1949, it became known that their Treasurer of the Territory had forfeited the right to hold office and it fell upon the Attorney General, who was Terry [Jerry?] Williams [sp?], Auditor of the Territory Frank Boyle, and Governor Ernest Gruening to appoint somebody fill in for expired [unclear, probably expired term?]. They offered the position of Territorial Treasurer to Henry. He didn't care for the office but accepted it, devoting his time to the duties of that office. He was

re-elected in the beginning of 1955. Since that time, Henry has devoted himself for study on various subjects. He has attended sessions of the Legislature but hasn't taken active part except for in providing information to individual members.

The interviewer [sounds like the interview is in a radio show] says that the time for the program has almost ended but that he'd like Henry to talk more, being sure that the listeners would like to hear his concluding thoughts. A radio voice says it's KFRB.

[At 10:05 there is a break in the recording with extremely quiet talking, then silence.] Recording resumes with Harrie Hughes saying that Frank Young is incapacitated for the night. Harrie asks him to record his thoughts about the night's meeting. Frank explains that he smashed his ankle and is unable to attend the meeting. He's interested in knowing who the delegates will be for the convention. He hopes everybody his best regards. [Break in the recording.]

Speaker [Later identified as Clyde Burkett] says it's Pioneer Visiting Committee, September the 11th, 1961. Committee decided to visit a sick and ailing brother each week and then provide a report. First visiting was August 13th, 1961. Andrew Wicken assisted the committee and in August 20th made a visitation alone. On August 27th he was assisted by Andrew Wicken and Peter Stager, on September the 3rd he made the visitation alone but on September 10th the speaker had the assistance of Harrie Hughes and Andrew Wicken. They visited pioneers and other old-timers in the hospital and some other old-timers were visited at their homes. Andrew Nerland spent a couple of days in hospital, claiming that he had nervousness. Hugh Wallace has been in hospital for over a week for some prostate trouble. Irving McK Reed was in hospital for a few days but has returned home in fair condition. Matt Stennes [?] has been to hospital for a few days. He has a bad case of shingles.

The speaker mentions also other pioneers and old-timers and their respective health conditions: Ann Sheeck [sp?], Mother Sumer, Gayle Harbo [sp], Paul Koganovich, Johnny Nerland [sp?], Frank Mussano, Victor Carson [sp?], Julian Hurley, Dick [Richard] Rasmuson, Victor Hugo, Pat Burke [sp?], Charles A. Smeltzer [sp?], John Fern [sp?], Dominique Sandern [Zandern?], Frank Miller [sp?], Tom Shella [sp?]. These visitations have been made during Clyde's time in the visiting committee. He wishes the best for his successor and wishes that the visitings will be enjoyable. [Break in the recording.]

15:45 A man's voice says something unclear and then lists names and if they are absent: Paul McDonald, Jimmy McDonald. Clyde Burkett, [unclear] Klein, Senavjinski [sp?], Andrew Wicken, Harrie Hughes, Al Burne [sp?], [Unclear, Jenski?], Jack Crooks, Harry Avakoff, Adolf Stock, Ted Loftus, Frank Chapados, Edby Davis, [unclear], Robert [unclear], Aude [sp?] Hering, Tony Kwick [unclear], Roy Olson, Jack Hur[unclear], Tom Jones, Dan Egan, Troyt Marten [sp?], Edson, [unclear], Leslie Nerland, Carl Parker, Earl [unclear], Dave Johnson [sp?].

[Unclear talking. Otto Geist and Bill Cashen mentioned. Chairman of the transportation committee is mentioned. More unclear talking.] A man's voice says it's October the 9th and it's a meeting of Igloo 4. [Unclear talking.]

Intelligible recording resumes at 27:50 by Harrie Hughes [?] asking what a person's number is, assuming that he is Bill Anderson. The man introduces himself as Victor Hugo. [Break in the recording.] Harrie Hughes says that Clyde Burkett said his goodbyes and that Kevin Baker congratulated him for his faithful service. [Break in the recording.] Nakorzavich [sp?] introduces himself and says he arrived to Alaska in 1915. Another man says that he [Nakorzavich] and the speaker worked together in Gilmore Creek and they caught a live fox which they gave to Mrs. Farrell. [Unclear talking with Johnny Nerland.]

Harrie says that it's September 11th, 1961, Pioneers of Alaska igloo 4 meeting. Frank Young had to stay home due to his broken ankle. Harrie apologizes for the background noise that Frank has to listen. Harrie says Clyde Burkett's report was excellent but that the rest of the conversation was just an insight into what the conversations were about before they head towards Anchorage to a Grand Igloo meeting. Harrie hopes Frank will heal in time and that Paul Greimann who is in the Transportation Committee will get enough people with cars to drive to anchorage.

[Music. End of the recording.]