Call number: 02-00-91 Frank Young

Pioneer meeting and Frank Young talking at the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society meeting.

Date: Various dates, Frank Young on April 27th, 1961

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Notes: Original on 5-inch reel, master copy on CD

The tape begins with a recording of a special meeting of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 4 [Fairbanks], concerning the Pioneer Park -project on March 29th, 1961. Harrie Hughes lists people who are present: Gene [Eugene] Rogge, Ted Loftus, Andy Wicken, Jack Linck who is the secretary of the Igloo 4, Tom Jones, Douglas Cole, Frank Young who is a trustee of Igloo 4. Mr. Linck will read the resolution of their one and a half hour discussion and a letter.

[Unclear talking, some names are being said.] Unknown speaker says that the Pioneers are going to inform Phil Holdsworth, a commissioner in Juneau, that they are pursuing Pioneer Park project by gaining a lot from U.S. Government land. The motion was seconded by Frank Young and other Pioneers voted in favor: Harrie Hughes, Frank P. Young, Ted Loftus, Eugene Rogge, Tom Jones, Douglas Culp [Colp?], and Andrew Wicken. They decided to write a letter to Mr. Holdsworth, and the speaker reads their draft aloud. Its message is that their pursuits are being objected by the city of Fairbanks, but they hope that Legislature will make a favorable decision. The secretary of Igloo no. 4 asks if there are any corrections anyone would like to make. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie Hughes says that it is April 4th, 1961 and that the following will be a transfer tape of a tape-recording of a broadcast of a legislative report by KFAR radio. The transfer tape is made for Pioneer Igloo 4 recorded history.

[Unclear talking due to bad recording quality. A man is talking with Bob.] The speaker is talking about income tax, which is a man-made problem and should be eradicated since it penalizes working. The idea of an income tax was on first pages of Carl Marx and Friedrich Engels' Communist Manifesto. The speaker is worried that income tax will tax the middle class out of existence. The host thanks the guest [name unclear] from Anchorage and says that they will continue tomorrow

morning with another report on the tax situation. Harrie Hughes says that this was a transfer-tape with permission from KFRB Radio.

At 11:38 Harrie Hughes says that the following is a transfer tape with Frank Young who talks about early mining and early life in Fairbanks area at the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society, April 27th, 1961. Frank Young starts speaking, saying something about something on March 28th, 1898. Frank tells how he asked Jack London how his book Burning Daylight originated. He [the man called Burning Daylight] said he was somewhat older than London and said that when they were camping, he got up on first daylight, got coffee and water going. He got up and shouted, "Get up, you are burning daylight!" They were camped on the mouth of Stewart River and they were getting ready to put coffee on and this morning London was up. He went to get some water from the creek and he had an ax to chop the ice. He started chopping and then yelled to Burning Daylight that there are sparks flying from his ax to which the other fellow replied by saying that London is a damn fool and that he is hitting his ax on rocks in a dry slough.

Frank knew Frank Guts [Gutz? sp?] when he was in Fairbanks and Dawson under the name of Kennedy. He was a world-class wrestler. "Them days" they wrestled differently than they do today. Philadelphia Jack O'Brian who was a world champion fought quite a number of old-timers up at the old Sentry Hall which is now the Eagle Hall. Nick Burley [sp?], Billy [William] Bates are mentioned.

Frank's family came to Juneau [?] in 1896 and lived there for a few years. Then they moved to Skagway in 1899 and then to Dawson. In 1905 they came to Fairbanks and Frank went to school with most of the early-day pioneer families, including Forbes [Baker?] and Charlie Creamer. Not many of them are left. Frank went to school in 1905-1908 and he's been to all stampedes: to [unclear], to Koyukuk, Iditarod, and all over the country. He didn't do too good but raised his family and is quite content to stay in Fairbanks for the rest of his days.

[Unclear discussion about Barnette –story that Frank Young is trying to encourage somebody to tell. Recording is unclear.] Barnett was on the Dome Creek and the speaker happened to be there in the morning of the shooting. Barnett got a big bunch of money out of that. The money was in gold coins.

Frank thanks Benny. [Unclear discussion.] Frank talks how he lived in a cabin at 2nd Avenue with an old-timer named Roy Lana. Roy and Frank used to play music together and Frank wrote songs. He wrote an ice-worm song and many others like

Down Along the Kobuk. Frank Beudal [sp?] was last living member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers that was organized in Circle City in 1894. Frank tells that gold was discovered in the Tanana River in 1888 by Frank Dinsmore, John Burke [sp?] and George Carrey [?]. Carrey's daughter still lives in Fairbanks. The discovery was made in the Chena Bar, near to the place where the University is now. Frank has it in paper that is signed by the last living member of the YOP. Gold was discovered in the Fortymile in 1886, way before Klondike. Miller Creek was discovered in 1892. Circle City Mining District was discovered in 1892, 69 years ago. Koyukuk gold was discovered in 1889 by an old man who was later killed by the Indians while he was prospecting. Following his death, a posse of miners hung the Indians. Frank Young says he knows a lot of history in benefit of the Historical Society. He thanks the audience.

Bill Cashen says it's April 27th, 1961 and he is going to get names of all the people in the meeting: Ella Jacobs [sp?], H. T. Torvison [sp? Torgenson?], A speaker [Later identified as Edby Davis] says Frank Young was his school-mate in Dawson and Fairbanks and wants to say that Frank Cleary was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. He also knew Elam Harnish, a logger who sold logs to the independent mill. Dolly Young, Victoria Faustin who's a visitor from Whitehorse, Adriana Coyle, Audrey Loftus, [unclear] Baker, Fabian Kaye [sp?], Jim Cassidy, Ed Loftus, [unclear] whom Cashen introduces as Jenny Coyle, Fred West, [unclear], Charles Time [sp?], Clyde Burkett, Andy Wicken, [unclear] Nathaniel [sp?], Francis Baker, Florence Mannvil, Forbes Baker. Cashen says that that was everybody.

At 30:07 Harrie Hughes says that he is now going to read a report onto the tape: Tanana-Yukon Historical Society [unclear] Mrs. Audrey Loftus is the president for 1961-1962. He lists other new officers: Professor William Cashen is a vice president, Mrs. Francis Baker is a secretary, Mrs. Florence Mannsville is a treasurer, Mrs. [unclear] Baker is a corresponding secretary, Harrie Hughes is a publicity chairman, Ludvig Lewinski a trustee and Andrew Wicken, a trustee. The other trustees are: Ivar Skarland, Frank P. Young, Harry L. Hughes, Charles Keim and Forbes Baker. They have also named an editorial board for the proposed historical magazine and the members are: Charles Kleim who is the chairman, Forbes Baker, Mrs. V.G. Francis Baker, William Cashen, Mrs. Adriana Coyle, Frederic West, Mrs. James A, Anabeth Hanlon, Harrie Hughes, Mrs. T.A. Audrey Loftus, Mrs. Florence Mannville, Earl Pilgrim, Victor Richardson [sp?], Ludvig Lewinsky [sp?], Ivar Skarland, Andrew Wicken and Frank P. Young and Bobby

Sheldon. Those are the members of the new editorial committee for the historical magazine. Harrie Hughes says he is recording the tape for history and research.

At 32:41 Harrie says it's May 2nd, 1961 and it's a special meeting of the Pioneer Monument Park Committee of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 4. They met at 2nd Avenue to make a request for state for immediate access to the Pioneer Park so that they could place some heavy equipment there that needs to be moved. The letter is addressed to Bill Hollsworth, the commissioner of State Department of Natural Resources. Harrie reads the letter where the Pioneers of Alaska ask a permission to place two heavy items at the Pioneers Memorial Park -site. They have the Harding Car and a steam locomotive that must be moved as soon as possible. Alaska Railroad and the military have promised to assist. The letter is signed by Harrie Hughes.

Present at the meeting were Ted Loftus, Tom Jones, [Unclear], Paul Greimann and Harrie Hughes. Colin McDonald and Eugene Rogge didn't show up. Frank Young had to work. They drafted the letter and are trying to proceed with the project. [End of the recording.]