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**Transcript of DARE Interview (1968): Juneau, Alaska; Primary Informant AK011
(Tape 0067-S1)**

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INTRODUCTION: The following was recorded from Dictionary of American Regional English, tape zero zero six seven, side one.

FIELDWORKER: Recording of Mrs. Belle G. [beep] made at Juneau, Alaska, June eighth, nineteen sixty-eight, by [beep]. First please, your name is Ms.

5 INFORMANT: Belle [beep] B-E-double L-E.

FIELDWORKER: Belle.

INFORMANT: Belle [beep].

FIELDWORKER: And you father was uh, your father's name was—

10 INFORMANT: Ruben [beep]. He, ma- my mother always called him Ruben, but he always signed his name "Robert." But Ruben, they were or-, originally from Germany.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And my father and mother met in London, and were married in London. And my oldest brother, who died a few years ago, was almost ninety-four, and he was born in London.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

15 INFORMANT: And, uh, my father was always, uh, connected with the fur trade.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

20 INFORMANT: In England he, uh, worked, he ran away from home when he was quite young. He had a step mother. And he worked, uh, as an apprentice in a fur manufacturing place where they manufactured fur caps, and after he worked a while, why, after he married my mother, they decided to manufacture fur caps themselves.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, course this is probably nearly a hundred years ago.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, so he started (to) manufacture furs, and on those days it was always a
25 w-, very, very wealthy people who could afford, {uh...

FIELDWORKER: Fur caps?}

INFORMANT: Sea otter caps.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, sea otter.

INFORMANT: The sea otter today, I guess you read where the first ones were sold by the state,
30 they brought in several million dollars.

FIELDWORKER: They did.

INFORMANT: And they bought as high as, uh, twenty-three hundred dollars apiece.

FIELDWORKER: Apiece!

INFORMANT: Apiece, yes.

35 FIELDWORKER: {Good heavens.

INFORMANT: They are quite a large,} there were quite a large skin, they're shaped like a, very
much like a land {otter—

FIELDWORKER: Well, this} is the skin that costs, that {(brings this in).

INFORMANT: The skin is}, that's w-, they sold the hides. And, uh, of course only the very
40 wealthy concerns bought them in.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: They are too heavy for fur coats.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: But they're very, very beautiful fur. And, uh, so my father manufactured the, uh,
45 seal skin, fur seal {caps.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm}, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Um, sea otter caps {(xx).

FIELDWORKER: Sea otter} caps.

INFORMANT: And, uh, my mother helped him, and then they, they finally worked up quite a
50 business and I, my father used to tell how they had a loft in London. Now I don't know what the
lofts were, but (evidently) very cheap places for factories, and (at) one time they, oh, they
employed a great many girls that did the hand sewing.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

55 INFORMANT: And, uh, he had otters for all he could make, and they only used sea otter in those days for trimming on royal robes, or for men's fur caps. And, and the royalty had fur caps, the ladies wore fur caps. And fur-trimmed coats, but never a full coat because it's too heavy a fur.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

60 INFORMANT: And, uh, finally one of the places where h-, big department stores where he used to sell his fur caps, ask him where he, where his place was, and he didn't want to tell them.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

65 INFORMANT: He didn't want to know, them to know exactly where he was manufacturing, or what large business he was working up, but they finally found out, and when the, uh the manager of this huge store came up and saw how many girls he had working there, he immediately employed all those girls and broke my father, took {all his—

FIELDWORKER: Oh (xx)}

INFORMANT: —trained help away from him. Well after many years, they wandered over to Canada. Winnipeg, Manitoba. And, uh, my father took up a piece of land there, quite good size ranch, he was going to raise, uh, blooded horses.

70 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, he used to like to tell how the governor of Canada used to drive out in this double team of horses, of course in those days, they had horses and carriages, and my father was very flattered that the governor used to come about once a month to call on him.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

75 INFORMANT: And he finally bought my dad's ranch for sixty-five thousand dollars. And of course that was a huge fortune in {those days.

FIELDWORKER: In those days}, yes.

INFORMANT: That's nearly a hundred years ago.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

80 INFORMANT: And, uh, I guess it was about a hundred because my brother, oldest brother, died when at ninety, he was almost ninety-four, and he died about five or six years ago.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: So it's pretty close to a hundred years.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

85 INFORMANT: And my father was so trilled, thrilled, they were going to retire and then they headed right for California. Now he stayed there a few years, and I had two sisters and another brother, three sisters and a brother, born in Canada. Then he went to California and bought a ranch on the Sacramento river, in Rio Vista to California.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

90 INFORMANT: And, uh he retired.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And of course he didn't know he even until his dying days that the governor was very clever. He bought that land and that's where the Canadian Pacific Railroad went across. And of course he probably made a fortune of the land. [laugh]

95 FIELDWORKER: I see, I see, I see.

INFORMANT: And, uh, so my father had this farm land, a very beautiful ranch house. And, uh, were doing very wonderful, I used to hear my older sisters tell how they climbed the cherry trees and the fruit trees, and I always longed to be able to climb a fruit tree. And I only did it once in my life, when I was about twenty-two years old, I climbed a cherry tree.

100 FIELDWORKER: [laugh]

INFORMANT: And, uh, so they got to California and were very happy and along came a man who was very wise, and he said to my father, "Oh, just think of it, these Indians come down the river with these wonderful, big, huge, uh, king salmon and they sold them for twenty-five cents apiece." And he said, "Why you have a fortune here on your hands, now, I understand the salting and the pickling business," of course in those days they didn't can things.

105

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And he said, "If you put up the capital, I'll take, I'll manage the salting and the pickling of the salmons." And my father thought, "Well that'd be kind of a nice hobby to have."

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

110 INFORMANT: Course he knew nothing about the man, so my father built a huge place there, my oldest brother used to tell how they had a fifty foot, uh, I guess it was a hoist—

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm

INFORMANT: —tower. My brother used sw-, dive off of that into the river, he was an expert swimmer.

115 FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: And, so they, my father put up the money to buy the salmon and the barrels, I guess they call them hogsheads {today.

FIELDWORKER: Hogsheads}.

120 INFORMANT: Wooden barrels. And this man salted or pickled all of these fish, and they had several thousand barrels. And, uh, when they had everything ready, they took it into, had to take it either down the river or go by team with, with, uh, oxen or mule teams, took it to San Francisco and he had a sale for it. And when they opened them, they were all spoiled. The man didn't know the first thing about pickling salmon, and my father went broke. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Oh for heaven's {sake.

125 INFORMANT: Right} then and there. So after that, he decided that, uh, that part of the country was growing, there were many farms, so he opened a little grocery store on the place.

FIELDWORKER: For heaven's sakes, what ups and downs!

130 INFORMANT: And in those days, he did a very good business there, all the farmers would come on their teams of horses. My mother used to tell how she'd drive all the way into San Francisco with a team of horse and take the children in to shop.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, he did very well in his grocery store, but in those days they used to carry insurance, uh, for say twelve o'clock today to a year from now twelve o'clock.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

135 INFORMANT: Or one o'clock to a year from now.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: So, my father left a man in charge and they all, the whole family went into San Francisco for a vacation. And when he came down, his insurance had, had run out at twelve o'clock and the place burned down at one.

140 FIELDWORKER: Oh.

INFORMANT: And he was broke again. [laugh] And that's when he finally packed up and came farther west, he came to, uh, Astoria, Oregon.

FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: And that was at the time that John Jacob Astor was starting out as a fur trader.

145 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And the Indians were there of course. They were very primitive. So {when my father—

FIELDWORKER: (I would) ask} question if I may. It sounds like an awful coincidence that the thing should burn immediately after the thing {ran out.

150 INFORMANT: Yes, and} in those days they couldn't collect.

FIELDWORKER: Well, yes, but, but, d-d-didn't he suspect that somebody had burnt it, {that it was arson or something?

INFORMANT: Well, uh} he never knew. Um, there was no reason for them to burn it, you know, {they—

155 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm}.

INFORMANT: —it was no benefit to anyone to burn it.

FIELDWORKER: No.

INFORMANT: Course they may have taken his whole stock out, while he was gone too.

FIELDWORKER: Ah.

160 INFORMANT: But even, my father was not a very good business man. He was i-i-inclined to be a little bit of a gambler in business.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: So, anyway, he came to Astoria, Oregon, and was gonna trade the Indians for furs, but John Jacob Astor was—Astoria, Oregon was named after (him)—and he found that he
165 could not, he could not handle the Indians there, they were all tied up with contracts with John Jacob Astor, and he tried it for a while, but, and the furs were just as plentiful there, then, in those days, as they were in Alaska.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: So, then he moved to Seattle, just bef-, just before Seattle, the big Seattle fire,
170 and he opened a shoe store. {[laugh]}

FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: He couldn't do very much (with that), and then he heard about the gold strike up the, um, up the, uh, Stikine River, uh, Cassiar Country.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

175 INFORMANT: So he took my oldest brother, who was then about eighteen,

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

180 INFORMANT: and he said he'd go up and explore a little bit. So he went up the river looking for gold, and found that that wasn't satisfactory, and there were quite a few furs there, but they were Canadians that were buying the fur. So he wandered up to Juneau, and Juneau was just founded at that time, and they found gold at the (mouth of the) gold creek here.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Nearly all the towns in Alaska were started by gold strikes.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, now just about {when it was that, when—

185 INFORMANT: So he came and he found} there were a great many firs coming in here and he decided to, to put a trading post in.

FIELDWORKER: {Mm-hmm.

190 INFORMANT: Which, he} did. And then, uh, a year or two later, why, my mother came, with the family, and, uh, there were seven in the family when she came here. Seven children. And my father did very well, and he built a trading post, and he was about the first trading post here. And I could still remember the Indians coming in, wearing only a blanket and a pair of moccasins.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And I think he brought the first cotton goods to the country, they used to call it calico.

195 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Twenty yards to a bolt.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, that, I think that they made their first cotton dresses out of his material.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

200 INFORMANT: And then they also had what they call a "Cabot W", C-A-B-O-T, with a big "W" on it.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Big bolts of white, oh, i-it's almost like canvas. And those were the two materials that the natives bought.

205 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, {mostly—

FIELDWORKER: What did they} use that for? The {Cabot W?.

INFORMANT: Uh, they, they, under-,} Cabot-W was for underwear. They would just take pieces of cloth and just shape them like a leg and tie them together and tie them around the waist.

210 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: 'Cause they didn't wear, even wear trousers.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, and this is a kind of, just a sort of uh, flap like the—

INFORMANT: Something like a pajama, only it wasn't, really wasn't as good.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

215 INFORMANT: But, uh, then he had the first sewing machines, I think (they taught the Indians how to make them). And of course they made their first liquor. You should go and see that show that's on every night, "Hoochinoo 'n Hotcakes."

FIELDWORKER: Well, it hasn't started yet, has it, for the season?

220 INFORMANT: Yes, I think it's every night. I think it would be on tonight because (there's a) ship in.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, uh-huh.

INFORMANT: It's every night, I think, except Sunday, unless there's a boat in.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: And, uh, that's the story of my father's early trading post.

225 FIELDWORKER: Oh, it is. [laugh]

INFORMANT: It's v-, it's quite interesting, {a little corny.

FIELDWORKER: When does it start?}

INFORMANT: Uh, seven thirty. You get a bus, I think, at seven, or seven fifteen.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

230 INFORMANT: Down at the, uh, at the Baranof, course you can get somebody to drive you up there too, if {you wanted.

FIELDWORKER: Yes, yes}.

INFORMANT: It's way up in the canyon, where they had the first mines.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

235 INFORMANT: It's quite in-, and they use the old mining boarding house for the, for their, for their production, {in this play.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, I see.}

INFORMANT: And then they take you through the mountain on the old, uh, railroad track.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

240 INFORMANT: And they take you through, right through the mountain, and you look down onto Juneau, right from the side of this Mount Roberts.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Now the tunnel goes right through the mountain. And that's where the AJ Mine used to be.

245 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Well, anyway, he started his trading post, and, uh, we lived upstairs over the trading post, and my father really was making a fortune on furs.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

250 INFORMANT: Ah, I can still remember as a child that he had a hundred and twenty-five sea otter at one time. Those come from a way out in the Aleutian Islands.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And the natives in those days used to travel all the way down from way up in the Aleutians down to Juneau, in their dugout canoes. And some of those canoes were so large that they'd have sometimes twenty and thirty people in a canoe.

255 FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, then, uh, the natives from {Canada—

FIELDWORKER: What do they call} those canoes?

INFORMANT: Well, just canoes.

FIELDWORKER: Just canoes, yeah.

260 INFORMANT: Dugout canoes.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, then the natives from up, uh, Lake Atlin and Lake Teslin, on Canadian side, British Columbia, would portage their canoes across, about thirty miles across, and, to the head of the, uh, Taku river.

265 FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: And then they would come down the river into Juneau and bring the furs (from in there). They had very beautiful furs, white fox, silver fox, blue fox, black fox, lynx, and land otter, and, uh, mink, and marten and sable, and course in those days furs were reasonable, my father used to buy mink for seventy-five cents apiece.

270 FIELDWORKER: Mm.

INFORMANT: Course that was the raw hide, you know.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: And foxes for three and four dollars apiece.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

275 INFORMANT: And he made quite a bit of money, but, like all newcomers, he was very foolish. He bought a mining claim.

FIELDWORKER: Ah. [laugh]

INFORMANT: And that mine took in the whole of Juneau, course Juneau was just an Indian village then and the village was all on the water, on the beach. It was all beach, where the
280 Baranof Hotel was beach.

FIELDWORKER: Mm, it was?

INFORMANT: And that whole front street—

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: —and where the government dock is was, uh, beach. Where the government
285 dock is, that took in my father's claim, and the claim took him clear up to top of Main Street, where you see that first flag over there.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: That's Main Street. And it took (him) clear up to the top of Main Street.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

290 INFORMANT: And, his, he fought his, few people in town fought him, they didn't want to have that claim, he bought it, from someone else. And it was a town side, also.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: These people had applied for town side. And there's gold in that hill, they just blasted there recently. That's where the capitol is going to go in.

295 FIELDWORKER: Oh.

INFORMANT: Over the hill of that, where the old jail is there. Down, right on to Willoughby Avenue.

FIELDWORKER: Mm.

300 INFORMANT: And you could still see the old tunnels down on that street. Eh, see it from here, that was, that was a courthouse at one time.

FIELDWORKER: Which is that now? The one {{xx}}

INFORMANT: That, the white one, with kind of a, sort of a Southern-looking {{thing}}.

FIELDWORKER: With the} great pillars over there?

INFORMANT: Yes.

305 FIELDWORKER: {I see.

INFORMANT: No}, the one that's highest one, right above the flags.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: It, it's right on the peak of the hill. O-over the other side of that is where the capitol is going to be.

310 FIELDWORKER: I see.

INFORMANT: On Willoughby Avenue. And my father's tunnels went right into that, that rocky peak.

FIELDWORKER: I passed that rocky place, just, uh, {coming up.

INFORMANT: And you can still} see the old tunnels and shafts there, boarded up.

315 FIELDWORKER: There's still some old houses smashed up {in there.

INFORMANT: Well, there}, that is urban renewal making them tear all those places down. And that's where the capitol building is going to go.

FIELDWORKER: I see.

320 INFORMANT: And, uh, so he applied for his patent, and, uh, he fought it through the courts for nineteen years. And he won his case in Supreme Court in San Francisco. And then they appealed it to Washington, and he won his case in Washington, D.C. And, uh, course in the meantime my father was feeding all courts and the lawyers, he had three lawyers he was keeping up at that time, and two of them were dishonest. They were working against him. He had one lawyer who was, was really honest, but the other two were selling him out. And he
325 didn't know it, he wasn't a very good businessman. And, he won his case in the Supreme Court.

I can still remember my mother saying, "Now when Daddy wins his case, you'll have another pair of shoes."

FIELDWORKER: [laugh]

330 INFORMANT: We always had enough to eat, but we almost could live off the county, we had all the meat, the boys used to get the deer and the moose, you know, we had venison meat. And we had one ship a month and my father used to ship up a quarter of beef and a whole lamb. And we'd get that. Course we had no cold storage.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

335 INFORMANT: And I can still see my mother, sitting on the back porch, the boys were cutting up the beef, and my, we'd have fresh chops and steaks for a few days, and then my mother pickled everything.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Everything was salted. The women in those days really kept house.

FIELDWORKER: (They really did.)

340 INFORMANT: They had nothing else to do, and they really were housewives.

FIELDWORKER: They had plenty of that to do.

INFORMANT: And, uh, and those, and we had no running water, the boys had to carry water from a creek.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

345 INFORMANT: And, uh, so, uh, we always had enough to eat, but we didn't have the clothes we needed. And we had one dress for Sundays and parties and one for every day. And it was always when Daddy won his case. Well, he won his case after nineteen years. In those days, the Secretary of the Interior used to run the territory, in fact, he owned it. And after he won his case, the Secretary to the Interior turned around, declared the ground a government
350 reservation and took it away from him.

FIELDWORKER: Took it away from him.

INFORMANT: Took it, took it away from him. It was supposed to be a government reservation and you see all those, that whole hill was built up, that whole hill there.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

355 INFORMANT: There was nothing on it at that time, and that was declared a government reservation, clear up to where they're putting the capitol now. And there are houses built on there and it was not a government reservation. And when he started to work his mine, they had

an injunction, issued an injunction against him, because they said it was damaging the courthouse, which it wasn't. And there still is gold in that hill.

360 FIELDWORKER: Somebody had it in for him.

INFORMANT: Well, it wasn't that. Uh, we, he had crooked lawyers. And he also had two men that were fighting him. They were prominent men in town. But the best people in town were all for him.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

365 INFORMANT: But the disappointment killed my father. And he died when I was about twelve or thirteen years old. So my mother, to her dying day, hoped to get that back into the courts again, and she never did. Now, even Senator Green tried to see w-, if he, there was anything could be done, but it's been too long, and there are too many people who have built their homes on the ground. But he was cheated out of it.

370 FIELDWORKER: {Uh, what was—

INFORMANT: So that's how} we happened to be stranded in Juneau all the rest of our lives. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. And you were born here then?

INFORMANT: I was born here. And we were stranded here all these years.

375 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, of course, we, we didn't have a great deal when my mother died. But uh, the gir-, older girls married, some of them I didn't really know at all, they were married before, when I was very small and left here. And, uh, I had two sisters, one was married here, the others were married in Chicago—

380 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: —and Washington. And I had one brother who accidentally shot himself out hunting, twenty-one years old. And then one brother died at seventy-five and the other bra-, brother was almost ninety-four.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm

385 INFORMANT: He owns the Goldstein building, that big building.

FIELDWORKER: Oh yes, uh, hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, he earned that all himself.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And everyone in the family earned what they got.

390 FIELDWORKER: Well, that's...

INFORMANT: They really worked hard.

FIELDWORKER: Well {now you—

INFORMANT: But that's} how we were stranded here. [laugh]

395 FIELDWORKER: Well your reminiscences of the Indians interests me very much. The, this was when the Indians were living, where were they living when they came in with these furs?

INFORMANT: Uh, you know where the, um, below the city dock, you know where the city dock is? That's the dock that—

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: —all—the farthest one. Well, that was all beach of course.

400 FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: Now the, uh, they call it the Auke, Auke Village.

FIELDWORKER: Ah, well now wait a minute, there's an Auke Village up the road here.

INFORMANT: No, this is Auke Village, and that was Taku.

FIELDWORKER: Right, I see.

405 INFORMANT: There were a few Aukes.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: I could still remember, my brother, I was quite a tomboy and I used to run around with my brother and his friends, and I can remember running along the beach and seeing a, a funeral pyre.

410 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: They, they had built, they used to burn their, their body, uh, they-, their corpses.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And I could still remember them building, oh it must have been about two hundred feet high of {logs and driftwood.

415 FIELDWORKER: Two hundred feet!}

INFORMANT: And they put the body—wrap it—and put it on the very top, wrap it in hides, and they put the body on the very top of this, they were closer to heaven by doing that, and then they would set fire to this place, and it would burn for days.

FIELDWORKER: I should think it would, {with that much wood.

420 INFORMANT: They still were}, that was primitive. And then, uh, I remember once going to a potlatch, I don't think my mother ever knew that we went. Uh, but, my brother took me and there was another boy, a little Irish boy, Mickey [beep] was his name. Mike [beep]. And he was a little freckle-face boy fellow, but he, oh he had a wonderful wit, and he was my brother's, my youngest brother's best friend. And we knew they were going to have potlatch and they had a
425 community house down, way down here.

FIELDWORKER: These are the Aukes, are they, or the Takus?

INFORMANT: That—Takus.

FIELDWORKER: Takus.

INFORMANT: So, uh, uh, we've, we knew about it and my father used to get molasses, uh, this
430 blackstrap Louisiana molasses and they were in, I guess, uh, more than a hundred gallons, these huge barrels.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, course as a child I didn't know what they did with it, but I found out afterwards, and he had a bridge acrost to his warehouse, because the tide used to come right
435 up to the trading post. And acrost the bridge was the warehouse.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And he kept the molasses in the warehouse and I can still see the old squaws. They used to take the old kerosene cans, I guess they are about five gallon cans, and they used to make buckets of it, put a handle on them, and they'd go over and sit, uh, the barrels were
440 put sideways on a platform and, uh, my dad would allow them to go over and fill the can, cause you couldn't take {more than a can.

FIELDWORKER: Was there some} way to get the molasses out of the barrel?

INFORMANT: They had a tap on it, {you see.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, I} see.

445 INFORMANT: It was put sideways and here was a tap and I can still see the old squaws sitting haunched on the floor with their blankets, you know? Sitting there, watching this drip into the buckets and what always fascinated me, they'd way, shut it off when the buckets was about full, you see, and then they would take their finger [laugh] and wipe off the last drop [laugh].

450 That always fascinated me, I think they do that, I told about that, they do that in this
"Hoochinoo 'n {Hotcakes."

FIELDWORKER: Oh I see}, yes, yes.

INFORMANT: And, when I was little, I didn't know what they did, they bought so much of this
molasses. And then my father used to sell packages of hops.

FIELDWORKER: Mmm, {mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

455 INFORMANT: And yeast, yeast cakes.}

FIELDWORKER: Hops, yeast and molasses. (laugh)

INFORMANT: And that was th-the hoochinoo, "Hoochinoo 'n Hotcakes". And, uh, but they used
to make—[phone rings] excuse me—that was a very important drink. My father used to sell,
probably a hundred bolts of calico, there were twenty, twenty yards to a bolt. And then they
460 had, uh, twenty-pound boxes. They used to call them, uh, "crackers". Uh, do you know what the
saloon pilot bread is like?

FIELDWORKER: No, I {don't.

INFORMANT: Used to} call it "saloon pilot" later on, but they just used to call it "crackers" and
the Indians call it ("Khaat").

465 FIELDWORKER: Mmm.

INFORMANT: (Khaat). Oh their, their {language is very guttural.

FIELDWORKER: They couldn't say "crackers."} They couldn't say {"cracker."

INFORMANT: And so}, a box of crackers, I'll, my father probably sell a hundred cases, in like c-
cases, wooden cases they were. And, uh bolts of calico.

470 FIELDWORKER: But what were these crackers made of? I don't understand.

INFORMANT: Well they were just a big—you've seen them—a big, round crackers and thick,
hard.

FIELDWORKER: Ah was it like {sea biscuits, s-s-sea biscuit or something?

INFORMANT: "Saloon pilot" they called it also.} Like a sea biscuit.

475 FIELDWORKER: I see, yes.

INFORMANT: And, I don't know why they called it, uh—

FIELDWORKER: Well, "saloon" means the, uh—

INFORMANT: Saloon cra-, uh, {saloon pilot.

FIELDWORKER: Saloon pilot} is from {boats, I ge-, I follow that.

480 INFORMANT: Yeah, they used,) sailors used to carry that when they couldn't take bread.

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

INFORMANT: And, uh, there were boxes almost as big as this stool.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

485 INFORMANT: And, uh, so that's what they used to have mostly, crackers, oh and blankets. My father used to sell blankets. So, uh, my brother and I and this little Mikey [beep], we- we sneaked in through this awful crowd, it was a community house, and they had dirt floors and in the center they had a big fire, and a square hole in the roof (and) the smoke went out.

FIELDWORKER: The crowd was a crowd of Indians?

INFORMANT: All Indians, yes, and they were in their robes, you know.

490 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. {Their blankets.}

INFORMANT: They had, none {of them} had clo-, regular clothes, they had blankets.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, the old chief would stand up on a platform and they would shriek in their language, and of course they were all pretty well hopped up with their {hoochinoo.

495 FIELDWORKER: (xx)}, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, finally he would scream to them all and they were all painted up, and, uh, they did a dance, their regular potlatch dance.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

500 INFORMANT: And then he would take a box of crackers and he would throw it. Every man got a box of crackers. And then he would take the bolts of calico (out, and) that impressed me. And h-, did you ever know that this is a yard? [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: From your nose to the end of the finger, yes.

INFORMANT: And he would take this and he would measure the bolt and keep rolling it, (you know) measure, and I think it was ten yards and then he would tear it, you see?

505 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And he'd throw it and each woman got ten yards {of calico.

FIELDWORKER: Ten yards of} calico.

INFORMANT: And then the white muslin, uh, they called it Cabot W, that's what they made their underwear out of, you see?

510 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And then he would take that and so many yards of that and measure it and throw it. And uh, then blankets. He would take a pair of blankets and tear right through the middle. Each one got a blanket. And, anyway, the tide came right up, there were few steps and a little platform in front of this place. And the tide was high, came right up to the house. And, uh,
515 finally the, uh, the old chief began to scream something in their native language, and they were all pretty drunk, even the women were.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, we didn't know what was the matter with them, and, uh, he shouted and finally a great, big buck jumped up out of the crowd, and he ran into the wall. There were
520 old muskets hanging on the wall and he snatched one of these muskets and started, of course he looked like a maniac, and we thought they were going to kill us, and we ran for our lives. And then we watched in the distance and he ran out in front and he took the gun, and he broke it over the railing. I never did know what that meant. He broke the musket over the railing and threw it out into the bay. But, uh, since then we've talked {to some (of the)—

525 FIELDWORKER: Some kind of an oath} I suppose.

INFORMANT: It was, uh, they said that it was, um, a ceremony, uh, uuh, showing that, uh, depicting that they would have no more battles with the white people.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, I see, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, but I've never seen them or heard of them doing that since.

530 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: But we thought they were going to shoot us, [laugh] because we were the only white kids in there, white people. And, I-, we didn't dare to tell our mother that we were down there, {(xx)

535 FIELDWORKER: Until that, until} that time had they paid any attention to you? Did they {know you were there?

INFORMANT: No}, didn't even know we were there. They were all pretty well lit up, you know and they didn't even know we were in there.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

540 INFORMANT: But I'll never forget that. That was the only potlatch I ever went to. But we went home and never mentioned it, that we'd gone in that crowd, and oh they were probably a

hundred, hundred and fifty. They had come in from, from hunting you see and had sold their furs and were spending their money.

FIELDWORKER: That's what I was going to ask. How the man got the money to buy all this stuff and {give it away.

545 INFORMANT: Selling the furs}, you see, and oh there were terrific {amount of furs.

FIELDWORKER: But he must have} been a big, uh, big chief.

INFORMANT: He, well, the chief always took charge of selling the furs too.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: But, uh, in those days, they used to bring in the big brown bear hides, black bear
550 hides, oh I don't think the bear hides brought more in than five dollars a piece—

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: —if they brought that much.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: But mink was seventy-five cents apiece. I can remember that.

555 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, uh, th-this play that they have. I was stolen by, one of these Indians, when I was about two years old, {two and a half years old.

FIELDWORKER: You were actually stolen?}

INFORMANT: And, uh, I used to come downstairs and we used to get, um, Louisiana brown
560 sugar in these huge barrels too, and I used to get a stool, I'd wander down into the trading post and climb on a stool and I'd dig out this brown sugar in lumps and eat it. So my mother called down, and she said she'd missed me. And she said to see where she is, and so my brothers started looking for me and they couldn't find me, and finally my oldest brother said, uh, "It can't be possible!" And these Indians had come from way up in the interior in their big canoes. And y-
565 , and they would come at high tide and tie their canoes up to the steps of the trading post and he said, couldn't be possible that they would pick me up. They, they wouldn't kidnap children for, for profit. They just liked white children and I had long curly hair and they were very much interested in curl-, children with curls. So my brother said, he remembered that they were gonna stop down at the village before they pulled out to go up into the Take. So he took his
570 gun, he was an excellent shot, he was only about twenty, I guess, twenty years old about that, twenty-one. And he took a shot gun and he ran all the way down to the village, and the canoe was out in the bay. They had stopped and were out in the bay and they had thrown a blanket

over me, and I always say my life was saved by a burnt hole in the blanket. And there was a hole in the blanket and I saw him through that and I began to scream.

575 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And he heard me, and he called to their chief, he said, "You got my little sister there!" And he said, "No," and I kept screaming, so he just put up his gun, he sa-, fired over their heads and now he said, "If you don't come d-, back, I'm-, come in, I'm gonna sh-, sink your canoe and I'm gonna shoot." So the chief knew that he really meant it, and came back and, uh,
580 my brother threw the blanket back and there I was, just screaming my head off, you know. Chief looked so surprised, he said, "Oh, she must have climbed in when we weren't looking."

FIELDWORKER: Ooh. [laugh]

INFORMANT: But they, it was just a question of perhaps a half an hour, or they wouldn't have seen me, we had no gas boats or anything like that to, to pursue them (in those days). That's
585 what this "Hoochinoo Hotcakes" is uh, eh, that is the story of {my being kidnapped also. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: That's worked in too}. Mm-hmm, I certainly would like to see that show. Well, uh, uh now the, the Indians then came in not only from the Auke Village, {(xx).

INFORMANT: Oh they came} from ca-, from British Columbia also, across Yukon, Yukon Territory. And today, if you took a trip over there, some, there were some young people from
590 here took the trip from the upper Taku, the head of the Taku River, across, into Atlin.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And Carcross and Lake Teslin and Lake Atlin.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And the skids of those canoes are still there, in the, in the uh, swamp, where they
595 skidded these huge canoes, and th-, and they carried thirty and forty people in {those days.

FIELDWORKER: It must have been...}

INFORMANT: Huge canoes, very huge ones. And, uh, my brother had one of those dugout canoes one time.

FIELDWORKER: Well, this was the closest place where the Indians could get the {sort of stuff
600 they wanted.

INFORMANT: This is where they came to}, to trade and to, and to—