

**IDITAROD TRAIL INTERVIEW - BONNIE HAHN**

August 4, 1980  
Nome, Alaska

BLM Interviewer:

Tom Beck

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**INTRODUCTION**

INTERVIEWER: .....National Historic Trail interview with Bonnie Hahn of Nome, Alaska, concerning the Cape Nome Roadhouse. The interview was conducted at the roadhouse on August 4th, 1980. The interview was conducted for the Bureau of Land Management by Tom Beck.

Bonnie was born in Nome and spent much of her life there. She has taught school in Nome for many years and is currently the physical education instructor at Nome High School.

According to Bonnie, the roadhouse was built about 1901. The original logs were brought by horse team from Council. It was a natural stop-over point on the trail for mail runners and other travelers. The dog and horse stalls used to house the animals can still be seen. It was used as a Methodist children's home during the 1920s under the Reverend Baldwin. According to Bob Baldwin, Reverend Baldwin's son, the roadhouse was used until the late 1920s when the Methodist mission in Nome was closed and the roadhouse was disposed of. It was also used by the CAA for many years as a communications center.

Pete and Bonnie Hahn bought the roadhouse in 1960, had an option from GSA. Further information about the roadhouse can be found in the Iditarod National Historic Trail interview with Bob Baldwin.

(Off record at Log No. 0134)

(On record at Log No. 0160)

(Side comment, laughter)

**INTERVIEW**

Q So you're saying you bought it about 20 years ago?

A Yeah, about 20 years ago. And we were going on a picnic from -- we were going down to the ferry at the time, I think, and the place was all boarded up. You know, it was -- it'd been standing empty for many years, and nobody had paid any attention to it, and we hadn't either. But going by, we decided -- we just had the idea, 'My, that would make a good camp.' And so the next day we decided to write to the GSA and find out if there's any possibility of acquiring it. And they wrote back and said, 'Well, gee, it's funny you should mention that because next week we plan to put that place up for sale. And look in the newspaper and you'll see the ad.'

And so the next week, we looked in the newspaper, thinking it was going to be a whole half-page thing and we were never going to -- you know, we'd have 50,000 people trying to buy it and we'd never have a chance, and we looked, and it was a little bitty thing about one by two inches in the bottom. And so we bid on it. It was a bid thing, see. And we bid on it, and then one other guy in town bid on it and he bid more than we did, and he couldn't























