

IDITAROD TRAIL INTERVIEW - JOHN BAHNKE, SR.

August 17, 1980
Nome, Alaska

BLM Interviewer:

Tom Beck

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INTRODUCTION

INTERVIEWER:Historic Trail interview with John Bahnke, Sr., of Nome, Alaska. The interview was conducted at John's home in Nome on August 17th, 1980. The interview was conducted for the Bureau of Land Management by Tom Beck.

John was born in 1907 in the Rocky Point area of the Seward Peninsula. John's father was from Germany and came to Alaska during the 1898 Gold Rush. John's mother was a Native woman from the Rocky Point area. John's father ran the roadhouse, the Cheokuk Roadhouse, between Bluff and Golovin during the very early 1900s. The family later moved to Bluff where John grew up.

John worked summers for 13 years at the Quigley Mining Camp near Solomon. He later worked in Nome for the U.S. Smelting Company, now the Alaskan Gold Company, and is a maintenance foreman for the Nome Public Schools.

(Off record at Log No. 0103)

(On record at Log No. 0200)

INTERVIEW

A There was a lot of mining going on there in the early days.

Q Is that where you spent most of your time, around Bluff, when you were younger?

A Yeah, when I was around 18 or 20.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And, I mean, I got married when I was 25.

Q Did you -- were your parents from Bluff then?

A No. My daddy originally was from Germany.

Q Oh, really?

A And my mother, she was a Native of this country. She was born and raised around Rocky Point, in that area.

Q When did your dad come into the country?

A Yeah, he come up here on the Gold Rush.

Q Did he?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Over the Iditarod Trail.

Q Really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Did he ever tell you stories about coming over there?

A No, not too much, no. He spent one winter up there around Kooguk (ph) country, then he come out of there and ran a roadhouse down at between Bluff and Golovin one -- oh, a couple of winters.

Q Oh, did he? Which one was that? Was that.....

A That little place they call Cheokuk. It's an Eskimo name. I don't know -- they have no white-man name for that place. There's a -- there used to be a shorter cabin there, but I think that burned down.

Q That wasn't Topkok, was it?

A No. No, no. The other way, from -- east from Bluff.

Q East from Bluff?

A Yeah. There used to be a roadhouse at Topkok too along about that time.

Q Yeah, let me -- I've got a map here. Maybe you can point out where your father's roadhouse was. This is one of those old maps that shows the.....

A Let's see this map.

Q Okay. Oh, this was it then, huh? Cheokuk, is that.....

A Yeah. That's it, yeah.

Q That's the roadhouse your father ran?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Now, it was around -- there was a lake, and they don't show the lake. I don't think it -- (indiscernible) wrong thing here, but I don't know. Yeah, that's it right there. The roadhouse was right in here somewhere, right alongside the lake there.

Q That mark there, I think, is where they think the roadhouse was.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Pretty close. But originally, the roadhouse was right next to the lake here, right about in there.

Q Right on the beach sort of, huh?

A No, on the lake side.

Q Oh, on the lake side.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). This right in here is the drainage of the lake, right in here. Goes out in the ocean here.

Q Hmmm. When was your father in there? When did he run that roadhouse there?

A That was -- let, see. I was born in 1907. That was before 1907.

Q Before 1907?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Before you were born then, huh?

A Yeah.

Q Then where were you born? You were born in.....

A Nelchina.

Qin Bluff?

A No, I was born in.....

Q Or you were born in Rocky Point.

A Oh, it don't show Rocky Point anymore.

Q Here's Rocky Point.

A Oh, right there, yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative). Let's see now. I was born right about in here.

Q Right were that.....

A Yeah, this little cliff here, little point. There's a little point there.

Q Point south of Cheokuk.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, this one here, mm hmm (affirmative). I was born right here.

Q Right where the stream comes down; right?

A Yeah, and I lived there in a little cook camp.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Right there.

Q Were your parents living down there at the time or.....

A Yeah. They were -- the spent several winters there trapping, and they'd work out in the summertime down at Bluff. Mm hmm (affirmative). There at Topkok Dish (ph)

Company was operating that.

Q Oh, what do they do? Is that a mining company?

A Yeah. There's a gold mine there, yeah, at McDaniel's -- Daniel's (inaudible).

Q Dan Daniels?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). And we moved from here to Bluff. I think that was along about -- I don't remember too much about that. I was nothing but a kid, and I wasn't even born. I think they moved to Bluff around 1900, somewhere around in that.....

Q Really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q You were born in 1907, is that what you said?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Was there a roadhouse in Bluff when you were there?

A Yeah, there was a roadhouse then, mm hmm (affirmative). It was ran by a friend of mine name of McDonnell, Dan McDonnell. He stayed there. He had a little mine for (indiscernible). Someone ran the roadhouse in the wintertime.

Q Did he?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Did he -- how long did he run it, do you remember?

A Well, he was there when I first remember, and he left there -- he must have left there around the '20s.

Q The '20s?

A How about a cup of coffee?

Q Oh, I just had some, thanks, I'm fine.

A Oh, you just had some.

Q But go ahead, if you had -- if you want some.

A I'll have some. Yeah, he left there in about 1920 and went outside. I don't know what ever happened to him; I never heard.

Q Was -- how many people were living in Bluff? Do you have any idea?

A At that time, there must have been, oh, 30 or 40 people.

Q Were there?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Is there a roadhouse in any store or anything or just pretty much.....

A Yeah, there -- the guy that ran the roadhouse had the store there.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). How long did you live in Bluff?

A I was there till about, well, 13 -- 19- -- no, when I was 13 years old, I went to work down at Solomon, oh, for a fellow by the name of Quigley that had a hydraulic mine. Me and my brother went to work down there.

Q Oh, at Quigley's camp there.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Have you been up there?

Q Yeah.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). He had a hydraulic mine, and we went to work for that.

Q There was another camp up there close by, wasn't there, Lee's Camp, or Lee's?

A Lee's, yeah. No, they weren't there at that time. They

come in there later.

Q Oh. Was that -- do you recall that -- was that called Lee's Camp or Lee's -- was Lee's Landing the same thing as Lee's.....

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative).

QLee's Camp? So you mined at Quigley's for a while then, huh?

A Yeah, we worked there several summers for Quigley.

Q Going back to your dad's roadhouse there at Cheokuk, did anybody else run that after he, or he closed it up then?

A No. No.

Q And that was it.

A No, they used the place after that for a shelter cabin, then the Territory, they built a shelter cabin there later, oh, and that must have been 10 or 15 years later.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Did it -- on a different location than.....

A No, no.

Q Same place where your.....

A Same -- it was right in that -- I think it was up on the bank more; it wasn't next to the little lake there. But I think some of the reindeer herders later built a fire in there, and it got too hot and the place burned down.

Q Yeah.

A There's nothing there now any more.

Q Really? Did you ever take dogs over these trails here.....

A Yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative).

Qalong the coast?

A Yeah, we used to have a dog team when I was a kid down at Bluff.

Q Did you?

A Yeah, and we used to trap along that beach. There's a long beach there that's about 16 miles from Bluff, down to Chilkoot.

Q When you used to travel that, was there a trail right along the beach?

A Yeah. They used to have a winter trail there, stake trail.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A When the mail came. Had to come across that portage from there, from the Golovin Bay. You kind of staked there across that portage.

Q Here it's got the portage on it, I think, right here.

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Okay, there's a stake trail across that. And later on, the Natives used to have a herd over here on Rocky Point, they put a fence clear across that, keep the herd in on Rocky Point.

Q Hmm. Right from Cheokuk.....

A Yeah.

Qacross to the bay.

A Clear to the bay, yeah, mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Hmmmm.

A I think some of the posts are still standing down that way. Well, there's a lot of times we were down there. Of course, it's been a long time since I've been down there. It's been 30 years almost since I've been down there.

Q Was this pretty much the trail they saw out here from Golovin? They would cut across the bay?

A Yeah, that is the trail. Yeah, that is the trail.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A This here, they called Six-Mile Point there. Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q And sometimes they'd -- it shows here sometimes they'd go across here if they were going up to White Mountain.

A Yeah, that's the road to White Mountain, mm hmm (affirmative), wintertime. Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Did you ever go on dogs farther than Cheokuk, or is that.....

A Oh, yeah. We used to go down to Golovin and pick up geese once in a while.

Q Who was down there? Was there a roadhouse down there?

A Yeah. Joe Dexter ran the roadhouse at Golovin. Yeah, he's dead and gone a long time ago.

Q Was there anything down at Golovin Mission that's not shown on this map, a mission down there at that time?

A At -- you mean at Elim?

Q No, well.....

A I think that's.....

Q They had a mission, and I called it Golovin Mission.

A Yeah. I think Ost ran that, didn't he? A fellow by the name of Ost?

Q Ost, O-s-t?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Yeah.

A Yeah, that (indiscernible) a long time ago.

Q Do you remember Joe Dexter?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, I remember him.

Q What was he like?

A He was just a -- he ran a roadhouse and had a store in there.

Q He had the post office there, too, and his son?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). No, no. The post office was in the -- there was another big store there. Ed Fackle, he had the post office in that.

Q Who was that? Ed?

A Fackle. A friend of mine by the name of Fackle.

Q Fackle.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). He was originally from Council.

Q Oh, really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Huh.

A And Council kind of died off, and he moved during that.

Q Hmm.

A And operated the store. And the post office was in there, in the store, Fackle's store.

Q How long was Joe Dexter down there? Do you remember? Was he.....

A God, he was there from the early days, I guess. I don't know. He was there a long time.

Q For quite a while?

A Yeah. He died down there.

Q Did he?

A He was married to a Native woman. I think he had a couple of kids with this Native woman, but I think they're all dead now except one; one lived. I think his one daughter is still living.

Q Yeah?

A But I kind of lost track of her. But I think she's still living somewhere. There's ano- -- there's a Joe Dexter down there. He's -- one of his daughters had a son, and they named him Joe Dexter. He's living down there now.

Q In Golovin?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Joe Dexter.

Q Do you remember this -- the -- your father's roadhouse down there at Cheokuk, what it looked like?

A It was just a log cabin thrown up.

Q Log cabin?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q And they had rooms in there for people to stay?

A No, no rooms, just one big room.

Q One big room?

A No, I think there were -- had one compartment in it, that's all, mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Did he have a place to board dogs or anything?

A Yeah, he had a doghouse alongside of it, mm hmm (affirmative), to put dogs in, mm hmm (affirmative). Every roadhouse, it seemed like, in the early days had a doghouse, you know, and the people could tie up their dogs.

Q And then they -- your father lived in it too?

A Hmm?

Q He lived in the building too?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah. Him and another fellow was operating it, you know, too, and the other guy's name was -- Cyclone Hanson, they called him.

Q What'd they call him?

A Cyclone Hanson.

Q Cyclone?

A Yeah, that was the name of the other guy that was his partner. He died later in White Mountain.

Q Do you remember Cheokuk at all? Do you remember it?

A Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Q When you were little?

A Yeah, I go running on up there, down there from Bluff with the dog team and do some -- do a lot of trapping down that way, a lot of (indiscernible) down there in the '40s, '30s.

Q Really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Was there somebody named Danielson at Bluff?

A No, Danielson, no, not that I know of. That's the name of the creek there, Daniels Creek. But I don't know, there might have -- I don't know too much about that. They might have named it after the fellow that found it though, but I don't know.

Q What'd you used to do down there as a kid in Bluff? Did you help your dad or something?

A Yeah, we (indiscernible), mm hmm (affirmative). We used to mine on the beach there. There was a little place about two miles from there, Eldorado Beach.

Q Eldorado Creek here, huh? Here it is.

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative). There's a creek there, yeah. Down at the mouth of that is where we used to long time surf wash on the beach. Not too much gold -- there is a little gold down there all right.

Q What'd you have, a rocker or something?

A Yeah, a rocker, and they used to have what they called a surf washer. Push it out on the edge of the beach, you know, and let the surf wash the dirt, catch it.

Q Oh, did it work?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, it really worked. And they had several plates in this thing, and the gold would stick to the plates.

Q What kind of plates?

A With quicksilver on them.

Q Oh.

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q What did it look like?

A Silver plates?

Q Well, the whole beach washer.

A Oh, it's just a square rig about four feet wide and about six feet long, something like that, four by six or four by eight. I don't remember too much about it, been here done long ago. It had wheels on it; you could push it in and out, you know.

Q Huh. And the gold would come in and stick to that?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). It was on a slant like this, see.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And the surf would beat in there and wash the dirt down.

Q Slanting into the surf, huh?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Huh.

A It worked pretty good. Small, choppy waves was the best, you know. Not too big of waves.

Q Who were some of the other families that lived down there?

A Hmm?

Q Who were some of the other families that lived down in Bluff, do you recall?

A Well, Pete Curran lived down there for a while, and Charlie Fagerstrom, Sam Tucker.

Q Is that before Pete had the roadhouse there at Solomon?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah. That was long ago. He didn't get that roadhouse down there in Solomon till about -- let's see. When the heck was it? '25 or '26.

Q Were there other kids to play with when you.....

A Hmm?

Q Were there other children to play with when you were a.....

A Oh, yeah. There was several Native families living down there.

Q How about going this way? Were there -- I'm interested in some of the roadhouses that were along this way too.

A Towards Solomon?

Q Yeah. I know there was one here at Topkok; right?
A Yeah, there was one, one time. That was just in the early days, not recently. Oh, when I was around, I know -- well, there was one there all right, in 1918, during the flu.

Mrs. Bahnke: Hello.
Mr. Bahnke: Hi.
Interviewer: Hi.
Mrs. Bahnke: Hello.
Interviewer: Hi.
Mr. Bahnke: Tom, I wanted you to meet my wife. This is Tom Beck.

(Off record at Log No. 1556)
(On record at Log No. 1559)

Q Talking about the Topkok Roadhouse.
A Mm hmm (affirmative).
Q You said there was somebody around -- down around 1918.
A Yeah. A fellow by the name of Nick Christianson ran the roadhouse at Topkok at that time. But he wasn't there too long after that. He went down to Bristol Bay area. After he left there, there never was no more roadhouses at Topkok. That was the end of a roadhouse being at Topkok.
Q What happened to that building there?
A It's still standing, what's left of it, down there.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative). How about -- let's see. What else was I going to -- of course, there was -- were there any there between -- there was one, of course, Pete Curran's there at Solomon; right?
A Yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative).
Q But you said that was later. He didn't start that till.....
A Well, in the early days there was a fellow by the name of Tom Shaughnessy ran that roadhouse there.
Q Mmm.
A And he's the one that sold to Pete Curran. Let's see. Now, I don't remember what year it was when they left here, but it was maybe in the '20s, maybe '28, '29, somewhere along in there, is when Pete Curran bought the place.
Q Hmm. Shaughnessy, was he an Irish man?
A Yeah, he was, mm hmm (affirmative). Him and his wife were both Irish.
Q Hmm. Did you know them?
A Hmm?
Q Did you know them?
A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). Yeah, I knew them real well. They were real nice people.
Q Really? Where did they go to when they sold the place?
A I don't know, but they went outside somewhere, mm hmm (affirmative). I don't know where they went. They were both old. They were up in their -- past 60s when they left here.
Q Hmmm. How about some of this -- was there any roadhouses, any, in between Solomon and Topkok? Do you remember?
A No. No. There used to be -- one father lived at Goose

Creek. You got Goose Creek on that?

Q Where is that near?

A That's between Topkok head and Solomon. Maybe right in here somewhere. Right in here maybe. What's this?

Q This is Cache Creek.

A Mmmmm.

Q Secret Creek.

A Oh, yeah, there used to be a roadhouse at Pine Creek in the early days.

Q Pine Creek?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). That's about, oh, maybe four or five miles from Bluff. No, from Solomon.

Q From Solomon.

A From Solomon, yeah.

Q Yeah, there it is, right here.

A Pine Creek, yeah, there used to be a roadhouse there in the real early days.

Q Hmm. Do you remember who ran that one?

A No, I don't. That was before my time.

Q Hmm. And any -- do you remember any between Solomon and the Safety Roadhouse?

A Oh, no, there was nothing between Solomon and Safety. Nothing.

Q Safety was Charlie Dalquist's?

A Yeah, he was at the Safety Roadhouse. Charlie Dalquist, yeah.

Q Was he there as long as you could remember?

A Yeah, he was there when I can remember him. Let's see. I'm trying to think what year they left down there. Don't remember that. But he must have left there in the '30s sometime.

Q He and Mamie?

A Yeah. And she moved to Nome and she got married to a fellow by the name of George Tucker. And they -- George, he died, and she's still living here in Nome.

Q Yeah.

A You've seen her?

Q Yeah. I've talked to Mamie.

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q And there was one at Cape Nome, then; right?

A Yeah, mm hmm (affirmative). There was a roadhouse there, yeah. That was -- that was old -- there used to be an old guy there that operated it, but I never did know him too well. His name was Cap Shriner. He was the original one that owned the place. Then later on, he sold to Frank Martin, and Frank Martin, now, he turned it over to FAA.

Q Hmm.

A They've turned it into some kind of a weather station down there. And later on, the FAA had the control of the building, and a fellow by the name of Pete Hahn, he got a hold of it from the FAA. He got it on a bid, I think.

Q Yeah, I talked to Bonnie, so.....

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q His wife. She still has it down there, I guess.

A She got it on a -- Pete got it on a bid. But then, I don't

know, they had some trouble, her and Pete. Pete took off, and I think they got a divorce; I'm not sure, but they must have. I think they have a divorce.

Q Hmm.

A 'Cause later, Pete was married -- he remarried again, someone in Southeastern Alaska.

Q How about were there any roadhouses between Cape Nome and Nome? Anybody have anything at Lee Creek here?

A I don't know. There might have been a roadhouse at Hastings Creek, but I'm not sure about that. We've got Hastings Creek on there?

Q Yeah, there it is. It comes right into Lee Creek.

A There used to be a gold dredge operating there.

Q There was, huh?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q When was that?

A That was really before my time around there, too. That must have been maybe 1910, somewhere along in there.

Q Hmm. You were talking about this. Maybe there's somebody at Pine Creek here, between Topkok and Solomon?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Maybe there was a roadhouse there. Is there.....

A I never knew who they were that operated it.

Q Is that still standing, do you know?

A No. No. There's nothing left of it. It's completely -- I think it was a log cabin to begin with, and I think it all rotted and fell down. I've never really been there in the summertime lately. I don't even know what it'd look like. Probably a lot of it grew up in grass around there now.

Q Yeah.

A You can't probably find anything.

Q Yeah, we've been down there. It's pretty country down in there, yeah, that area.

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Oh, I like the Bluff area, too, with some trees and.....

A Anybody at Bluff now?

Q No. No, I don't think there's anybody. They just -- a lot of the buildings are still standing.

A Oh, yeah. Some of them burned down there not too long ago.

(Off record at Log No. 2451)

(Tape Change - Tape No. 1 of 1, Side B)

(On record at Log No. 0432)

Qlet it go. It bothers some people, but some -- most people don't seem to mind too much. I was talking to old Andy Peterson.

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Do you know Andy?

A Oh, yeah.

Q And he was telling me about some of the roadhouses up, I guess, Salmon Lake area and stuff.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q And do you know -- have you ever heard of the name Cheruk Roadhouse, or Cheruk, C-h-e-r-u-k? Does that name ring a

bell at all?

A Which way? Where was that at?

Q Well, I'm trying to find out. We heard that there was a roadhouse named Cheruk, and we're not sure. He seemed to think that maybe it was in the -- you know, somewhere around Iron Creek here, which I think is.....

A Yeah, because the party that I knew up there had ran the roadhouse at Iron Creek was old Dad Wayland (ph), they called him. He was -- Andy probably told you.

Q Yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Mm hmm (affirmative). He's the only one that I knew that ran the roadhouse up there.

Q Huh. But that name, Cheruk, doesn't -- wasn't in here anywhere, if you recall.

A I didn't get the name. What was the name?

Q Cheruk, or Cheruk.

A Cheruk? No.

Q C-h-e-r-u-k. Cheruk. Nothing around the.....

A Oh, Cheruk, Cheruk. That's -- could be this side of -- the other side of Spruce Creek down there next to the Topkok head on this side. I think that's what they called the Cheruk down there.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah. Right in that area somewhere.

Q Somewhere between Taylor Lagoon here and.....

A Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative).

QTopkok here.

A There was an old guy down there, he had a kind of a experiment thing on wheat and different things.

Q Hmm.

A Growing vegetables and stuff. And he tried to sell it to the State, but he never did. I don't know, he might have ran a roadhouse there too at that time. But I think his name was Farmer Brown, the guy that ran that place.

Q Where did that name Cheruk come from?

A Cheruk, I don't know. I think it's Eskimo.

Q Hmm. But you think that was in that area.

A It is. It was in that area, this side of Topkok.

Q Oh, okay.

A Head. Yeah, I remember this old guy, he grew a lot of vegetables down there. It was an nice, warm place, and there was a lot of good soil down there. And one time, he walked from there to Bluff, and he took a whole bunch of rhubarb plants with him and he give them to my dad. And my dad planted them down there around Bluff, and later, my brother's wife, Ethel Baugh, she went down there, oh, eight or ten years later and picked up a bunch of those plants and brought them into Nome here.

Q Really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). And she gave -- Ethel Baugh gave my wife some of them. That was -- see, we married; she died on me though. And we took those plants and we took some of them down to Nuk. I got a camp down at Nuk here.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Took them down there and planted them, but they all died

off. So we took some out to the camp -- I got another camp up here on the (indiscernible) River, near Cottonwood, at 15 Milepost.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And we took those plants up there and planted them, and they'd grow. Gee, they grew something fierce.

Q Huh.

A And we really enjoyed them. They're still growing.

Q Huh.

A So the fact that this old guy had at Cheruk there, that's been 60, 70 years ago -- 60 years ago at least, those plants.

Q What ever happened to him, old Farmer Brown? Is that who?

A Yeah, he -- I don't know how -- what happened to him, where he went or anything about him.

Q Hmmm.

A He probably died off. I don't know. I don't know whether he died even.

Mrs. Bahnke: You about ready?

Mr. Bahnke: Talking about those rhubarb plants.

Mrs. Bahnke: Hmmm? You about ready?

Mr. Bahnke: Hmmm?

Mrs. Bahnke: You about ready?

Mr. Bahnke: Mm hmm (affirmative). Geez, where do you want to go today?

Mrs. Bahnke: Back up to country.

Mr. Bahnke: Oh. Kathy and the -- no, John and the kids are up there, I think.

Mrs. Bahnke: Where?

Mr. Bahnke: Up at the camp. He said they might stay at our place.

Mrs. Bahnke: Oh.

Mr. Bahnke: Well, you want to go up there? We'll go up anyway. Heck with that.

Interviewer: You getting ready to take off here?

Mr. Bahnke: Yeah, we'll probably. She wants to go out too. See, she works three days in a row.

Interviewer: Oh.

Mr. Bahnke: Night and day.

Interviewer: You want some time off, huh?

Mrs. Bahnke: Then get off three days.

Mr. Bahnke: Then she don't have to go back for three days.

Interviewer: Oh, that's good.

Mr. Bahnke: Mm hmm (affirmative). She works down in the receiving home.

Interviewer: Oh, do you?

Mr. Bahnke: Mm hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Hmm. Well, I appreciate your.....

(Off record at Log No. 0924)

(On record at Log No. 0927)

Qask you about some of the roadhouses on the other side. Did you ever get around like there were some roadhouses

here, one called Portage Roadhouse.

A Oh, yeah?

Q They were on the other side of Golovin, one called Portage Roadhouse.

A No, I didn't -- on the other side of Golovin, I don't know too much about anything there.

Q You don't know? Yeah, here's Golovin.

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q And you didn't get over in here then.

A No. No.

Q In this area, Elim or.....

A No. No. I wandered toward Elim one time, but, goddamn, it was when I was just a kid. I don't remember too much about it at that time.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Huh. So you've pretty much traveled that area of those other trails between here and Bluff.

A Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Q Do you keep dogs for a long time?

A Yeah, we had a team down at Bluff. We used to keep around eight or nine dogs.

Q Did you?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). All (indiscernible), you know, run around and crap.

Q Pretty much follow the coast there, is that what the trail did?

A Yeah, all the time, yeah.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A There were so many dog teams they kept the trail pretty well packed.

Q Did they?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). Then they had it staked. All the time, wintertime, the Road Commissioners -- that's what we used to call them in the old days, you know, Road Commission -- they kept the trail staked wintertime for whoever that went in there traveling, you know, dog teams running.

Q How far apart were the stakes?

A Around 50 feet, I guess. Not too far apart.

Q I guess they can get some big storms down there, huh?

A Oh, yeah. Especially around Solomon. Bluff is not too bad; their weather down there is pretty normal. But around Solomon, that place blows all the time wintertime.

Q We're out of ink.

(Off record at Log No. 1209)

(End of audible portion of tape)