

IDITAROD TRAIL INTERVIEW - MAMIE MALONEY

August 4, 1980
Nome, Alaska

BLM Interviewer:

Tom Beck

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INTRODUCTION

INTERVIEWER: This is an Iditarod National Historic Trail interview with Mamie Maloney of Nome, Alaska. The interview was conducted at Mamie's home in the senior citizens' housing in Nome on August 4th, 1980. The interview was conducted for BLM by Tom Beck.

Mamie was born in Nome in 1923. She lived most of her early years at Port Safety, a small area east of Nome on the Bering Sea. Her father, Charlie Dahlquist, a Swede, came to Nome in 1901 for the Gold Rush. He later left and came back in approximately 1910. Charlie was a mail runner initially and later operated a roadhouse at Port Safety. In addition to running the roadhouse, Charlie also was the ferry operator on the Safety Lagoon. He married an Eskimo lady. Mamie's mother died when Mamie was only three months old. Mamie helped her father run the roadhouse, cleaning and cooking for the guests, and also helped operate the ferry. One of the highlights of her early years was the appearance of Charles Lindbergh in Nome.

In 1947, Mamie married George Tucker, who lived in Bluff. Several years later, after George Tucker had died, Mamie married Eddie Maloney.

(Off record at Log No. 0144)

(On record at Log No. 0168)

INTERVIEW

- Q So were you born in Safety, Mamie?
A No, I was born here in Nome, but I lived there all my life.
Q When did you.....
A I mean till I got married in '47.
Q When did you -- you were born in Nome?
A In 1923.
Q 1923. And when did you move to Safety then?
A Well, almost right away, I mean, my daddy ran the Safety ferry from 1910 till 1915.
Q Oh, is that right?
A Yeah.
Q Oh.
A He also had the mail run from Council to Nome by a horse team.
Q Oh. Okay. Now what did that ferry do? What exactly.....
A Oh, it took cars across the lagoon, and in them days, in the early days, there wasn't hardly any cars. There was mostly horse teams.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A And I don't know what year the cars started coming, but during the war years we had a lot of cars going by. The Army would go down the coast and so.....
Q So he'd ferry across the lagoon?
A Yeah. Mm hmm (affirmative).
Q Did your father run the roadhouse down there?
A Yes, he did.

Q And when did he run that?

A Oh, he -- as long as I could remember he had a roadhouse that he kind of -- during the war years, I mean, it was -- we were too busy on the ferry to really run a roadhouse, I mean, we'd accommodate people all right, but, I mean, it was just too much work involved.....

Q Yeah.

Abecause there was just the two of us and the people would come and stay overnight if they had to.

Q Yeah. Do you remember when he -- did he have that before you were born then?

A Yes, he did.

Q Do you remember who he bought it from?

A Johnny Reeder (ph) has it now, and John Reeder (ph) said he bought it from the ACS. They had the first wireless station down there I guess.

Q And ACS bought it from your dad; right?

A No, Johnny Reeder (ph) did.

Q Bought it from your father?

A Yeah. No, he -- pardon me. He sold it to Red Kline (ph) and then Red Kline (ph) bought it from -- sold it to Johnny Reeder (ph) I guess.

Q So your father sold it to Red Kline (ph) then?

A Yeah.

Q You don't know what time he got down there -- when it was, 1900 or.....

A Well, my date came to Nome in 1901 for the first time, and I think he said he came back in 1910. The second time he stayed.

Q Where did he come up here in 1901?

A Nome. That was the first time he came up to Alaska.

Q Where did he come from?

A Sweden.

Q Oh, is that right?

A Yeah.

Q Gee whiz. He came up to do -- for the gold rush then?

A Yeah, I guess so.

Q Stayed a year or so and then.....

A Yeah.

Q Did he go Outside back to Sweden or.....

A No, he didn't go to Sweden. I think he went to Seattle or someplace, but he didn't go back home.

Q And he came up in 1910 and bought the roadhouse then?

A Yeah.

Q And do you know when he sold it, about?

A In '51.

Q So that was a long time -- about 40 years, isn't it?

A Yeah.

Q It must have been real interesting. Was that building -- is it still down there now?

A The first building he bought he said burned down, the great big building, and this one has been up for -- I don't know just how many years, but it's been up for quite a while I guess because it went through the 1913 big flood.

Q Oh.

A And so it's been there since at least before 1913.

Q And which building is that down there now?

A That's the one that -- the roadhouse that's, I mean, it, you know, that -- the bar?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A That Johnny Reeder (ph) has?

Q Oh.

A That's the same -- yeah.

Q And there was a wireless station down there too?

A Yes, there was. Uh-huh (affirmative).

Q All right. Did they -- do you remember do any dug mushing along there? Did you do any or did.....

A Yeah, I used to drive dogs.

Q Did you?

A Uh-huh (affirmative).

Q Where'd you drive them?

A Oh, I'd come to town and go down to Solomon, and I used to travel around on skis with three dogs all the time.

Q Really?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q So you'd go from Safety to Solomon maybe?

A Yeah. That's the farthest I've ever gone, is down to Solomon by dog team and up to Nome by dog team.

Q Did you go along the coast there and then.....

A Yeah.

Q Did you follow it pretty much, that trail where the road goes up to Solomon now or.....

A Yeah. Or, I don't know, it's been so long since I've been down there. I really don't know what route they take now, but both -- they used to have the trail along the telephone line -- the dog team trail, but there's no more telephone line, so.....

Q Yeah. Did many people who came through stop at your father's roadhouse?

A Yes, there was -- summertime there was a lot of people that went through. We got one month, I forget how many cars we took across, but we took across 1,000-and-so-many people. And I can't remember the amount of cars we took because the engineers used to go down on Saturdays and Sundays out in the country and the Army would go on maneuvers and.....

Q When did he start the ferry business, do you? Was that at the coming of the automobile?

A No, that was the horse team days.

Q Horse team days?

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q About the same time he started the roadhouse?

A Yeah, I guess so. You know, I sure feel bad because when you are little you don't pay attention to things then. It would go in one ear and out the other, and, I mean, if I had -- there's so many things he told me, but I just don't really remember them.

Q And as a kid you don't pay attention.....

A Yeah.

Qto those things.

A He said in 1913 there was a lot of little cabins there, and

he said they just went up like this and just floated away.

Q Oh, in the flood?

A Yeah.

Q What did the flood do to Safety?

A He said it got up to the ceilings downstairs and they had to take a boat and go -- there was -- he said there was big boats anchored in the lagoon and they had to go out there with a little boat and stay out there, I guess, till the water went down. He also said it just swept everything out of the house downstairs.

Q Hmm. And you probably don't remember that. You were only.....

A No, no. I wasn't even born. That was in 1913.

Q Oh, 1913, yeah, geez. How many people were down there in Safety when you were growing up?

A There was just my dad and I. Our nearest neighbors was two miles away.

Q Which way, towards Nome?

A Yeah. Now it's kind of a big -- there's a lot of houses there, but there is only about three families down there.

Q Do you remember who they were?

A Yeah. There was Billy Patches (ph).

Q Patches (ph)?

A Uh-huh (affirmative), and Murray Tate's family.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And the Kites (ph) -- oh, and Mark Abdulwallek (ph).

Q Who is that again?

A Mark Abdulwallek (ph).

Q And they have their little community down there. Any other communities like at Cape Nome or Nook or.....

A I guess a long time ago they said there was a big village there, but I don't remember anything about it and I don't -- Daddy never told me anything about that, he just told me about how them houses floated away around our place. In 19- -- when they had that big flood here -- I can't remember what year that was. But anyway, the New Lincoln washed away, and the water was up past our -- we had to move upstairs for three days. We couldn't have no fire or nothing. It was, I mean, too much water. You couldn't even get downstairs.

Q That was down there in Safety?

A Yeah. We had to take our dogs upstairs. We had three dogs. We took them upstairs and stayed up there for three days. You looked out the window, all you see is water.

Q Did you have any food or.....

A Yeah, we took food upstairs. It was kind of cold. It was in the falltime. That was in October.

Q And when was that about, do you remember?

A I can't remember just what year that was. Let's see here. I think that was in '47.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Anyway, when the old Lincoln and a couple of buildings went out, I mean, washed away.....

Q What was the Lincoln?

A Lincoln Hotel.

Q That was down in Safety too?

A No, that was here in town.

Q Oh.

A Anyway, it was the year that washed away, and I can't remember just what year it was but it was before I got married.

Q Oh, this is the flood here in Nome or in Safety?

A Oh, both places.

Q Oh, both places.

A Yeah.

Q Oh, yeah.

A There was two -- two men, they perished in that flood.

Q Where was the Lincoln here in town?

A It was -- let's see, where was it situated? I think down around where Kabula's (ph) store is. I think it was down in that area. You'd have to ask someone, I guess, but I think that's what my husband told me because I don't remember too much about that because we stayed down in Safety most of the time.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Did your father build that building down there?

A No.

Q No?

A But that building must have a good foundation because I know how many floods it went through. John Reeder (ph) said the last time they had a flood that was when they had this -- was that in '74, the last time they -- I think?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A He said it just went through the garage and the woodshed and garage and just swept everything out but the building still stood up.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). So the first one your father had though, you said it burned down in.....

A Yeah.

Q1913 or something?

A No. It burned down before 1913 because he told me how this -- the other building -- this building stood through the 1913 flood.

Q So sometime between 1910 and 1913?

A Right. I don't know what year the fire was.

Q Then he had -- did he have somebody build the new building for him or.....

A Yeah, I guess he did. I really don't know. Like I said, I didn't pay too much attention.

Q But you were the first owners of that, or your father was?

A As far as I know.

Q Yeah. Do you live upstairs in the roadhouse or.....

A No. We lived -- yeah. We slept upstairs but we lived downstairs.

Q How many rooms did you have for people?

A Let's see. There was one big bunkroom with about six beds in it, and there was four individual bedrooms.

Q Were there a lot of people that came through like on dog sleds and stuff in the winter that stayed?

A Yeah. They used to -- we used to have a mail carrier come

through. He came by dog team.

Q How often did he come through?

A Let's see. I think it was about twice -- about every two weeks I think. That was Pete Curran, Jr. He lives next door, but I think he's camping.

Q Oh, Pete lives next door here?

A Yeah, he lives next door, but I think he's down at his camp.

Q Where is this? Oh, It's Solomon?

A Yeah. His daddy ran the Solomon roadhouse.

Q Did you know Pete when you were growing up?

A Yeah, I knew him.

Q Did you go visit him at.....

A Yeah, we'd go visit.

Q And Pete ran the mail then part of the time?

A Yeah, Pete ran the mail. I guess he -- I think his daddy did earlier, but that was before my time.

Q Would Pete run it probably from like Solomon to Safety, or do you know?

A Oh, I think he went all the way down to Elim.

Q Hmm.

A I'm pretty sure he went all the way down to Elim. He might have went further than that but I'm not sure.
(Indiscernible) stop at Golovin and then there was Bluff and then Solomon and then Safety.

Q Did you -- you used to get up at the roadhouse in Solomon -- Curran's roadhouse?

A Yeah, we'd go down. Have you been down to Safety?

Q Yeah.

A Oh.

Q And we've been around in Solomon. It's pretty down there.

A The days that Daddy ran it it was real hard work because we had just a little motor boat to pull the thing and then we had extensions on the cable because it was -- if he hit it too low down it would get in the water and it rust and stuff.

Q The ferry?

A The cable.

Q Oh.

A The lines, you know, that hold the cable -- that hold the ferry. We would have to change our ropes about twice going across. In them days, it was really work.

Q What kind of a ferry did you have, sort of a.....

A It's down there on the beach I think. It was run by -- we had it attached to that cable and then we had this little boat pulling it. Sometimes the tide would be so strong we'd have a hard time getting across.

Q Oh, really?

A But it got more modern in the later days, I mean, nothing to do.

Q When did your father run the mail, when you were.....

A When I was a little baby.

Q Do you remember when he did it?

A Huh-uh (negative).

Q Where did he run, did he ever tell you?

A From Council to Nome.....

Q Hmm.

Aby horse, and I don't remember how many days that took either. I wished I had asked -- I tried to ask some people but nobody seemed to know. I guess there's not too many old-timers around.

Q Yeah. You just don't think.....

A Yeah.

Qyou know, when you're growing up and living it, that it's all unimportant to you then.

A Yeah.

Q So he ran by horse team?

A Yeah. In them days, I guess they had a lot of shelter cabins in between here and there, but they're all broken down now, I guess.

Q Yeah. Did you ever get around to any of the other towns, Golovin or.....

A No. I went to Council once but I never did go across the river. I've never been to Golovin or White Mountain. Oh, I went down to Bluff.

Q Oh, you got to Bluff?

A Yeah.

Q How'd you get there?

A Dog team.

Q Did you?

A Mm hmm (affirmative). I went down with John and Robby Bahnke.

Q When was this, do you remember, about?

A Let's see. That was 1935.

Q Oh. And how did you go? Do you remember how you.....

A We followed the telephone line, and then when we got down around Spruce Creek we went up over the hill, but I wouldn't know, I mean, it's been a long time and.....

Q What was Bluff like in 1935?

A It was -- they were having mining -- doing mining down there -- Mort Sullivan and -- no -- was it Mort Sullivan? Joe Crabtree (ph), and I think it was Mort Sullivan, they had a big mining outfit down there. And then Carl Olsen had a roadhouse.

Q Carl Olsen had the roadhouse.....

A Yeah.

Qdown there? Just some of our -- a friend of mine just flew in with a helicopter to look at -- I guess there's quite a bit left there still though.

A Oh.

Q Old buildings and mining equipment and stuff. Did you stay at the Olsen's roadhouse then?

A No, I stayed with -- there was the Bahnke family and the Tucker family. I stayed with them. That's where I met my first husband. We got mar- -- I went down there to meet his family then. We got married in '47.

Q And what was his name?

A George Tucker.

Q George Tucker?

A His daddy had a mining outfit on Swede Creek. That's -- I don't know how many miles it is out of Bluff. It up way up

high on the hill though. I don't even know if I have any pictures of it or not. I sure wish I had some pictures of Safety. I used to have this great big (indiscernible) down there for the oiling station, and there was a lot of guy wires. And they said it's too dangerous because I (indiscernible) and they're afraid it, you know, will fall down and hit somebody, so they closed down -- I can't remember what year that was, but it was before I got married.

Q Quite a few photos there, huh?

A Yeah. Some of them are -- this is my first mother-in-law, Grandma Tucker.

Q Was your husband's family.....

A Right.

Qthe Tuckers, were from Bluff then?

A Yeah.

Q And they were doing gold mining there?

A Uh-huh (affirmative), at Swede Creek. Oh, here's their log cabin.

Q Oh. This is in Bluff?

A Yeah.

Q Do you remember where this was in Bluff?

A Yeah, that's taken out at Swede Creek.

Q Oh, on Swede Creek?

A Uh-huh (affirmative).

Q Oh.

A Up on the hill. They had this mining thing down the creek but it was -- there was gold there, but they had to get their wire to go up the hill, and they didn't make too much money because it was so rocky and stuff, and they had a hard time getting the water. So Bill Muns (ph) got a hold of it later on. I don't know if he's down there yet or not.

Q Do you remember when this was taken, about?

A Oh, that must have been taken a long time ago, it looks.

Q Yeah.

A It was, I think -- this was my husband, so that must have been taken -- let's see. He was born in 1919.

Q Hmm. Oh, a little guy then?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. Nice picture.

A And this is my father.

Q Oh.

A Mr. Poling had there -- do you know Mr. Poling?

Q Yeah.

A He had these printed for me -- reprinted for me.

Q When did your father pass away?

A Oh, 1951.

Q Hmm.

A And he overhauled our Model-T one day and he made the pistons too tight, I guess, so he couldn't turn it, so this is the way we got it going.

Q By dog team, huh?

A Yeah.

Q Did it work?

A Yes.

Q Hmm. Now that's quite a team he had there.

A Yeah.

Q How many dogs did he have?

A Well, he used to take care of dogs for people in the summertime, and one time he had as many as a hundred -- no, 50 dogs he said.

Q Is that right?

A Uh-huh (affirmative).

Q So he'd keep them there and hold them over the summer and.....

A Yeah.

Qfeed them and.....

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Whose dogs were they, do you remember?

A No. I remember one year he took care of Rylander's (ph) dogs. He was from Haycock. And then I think the Olsen's dogs, (indiscernible), and Gilda Hanson (ph). And I guess that's about all. But I don't remember when he had that big team because that was before I was born, I guess. He said.....

Q Did he ever run the mail with dogs or did he just use horses?

A No, horses. I guess he had to quit that mail run after they started getting cars and he had to be there from 8:00 in the morning till 6:00 at night.

Q Where, at the ferry?

A Yeah.

Q How far was the ferry from the roadhouse?

A Well, it's just -- you -- it's just.....

Q I'm trying to picture it. I was down there but.....

A Yeah. It isn't too far, about as far from here to that green house, I guess -- where the bridge is, isn't it?

Q Yeah, I think so.

A Yeah. It may be a little further.

Q A quarter of a mile? Maybe.....

A Yeah.

Qthere's something here. These are nice.

A I had some pictures of that old house with the maps on there, but I don't -- the one with the.....

Q Does John Poling have copies of some of these, did you.....

A I don't know if he does or not.

Q Hmm. Yeah, I'd like to see one of your place in Safety if you have one there.

A Oh, I don't know if I do.

Q Oh.

A Since we moved here -- I have some pictures like the old house stood, but I -- there were some I did not -- I wanted them and I put them someplace, but I can't find them.

Q Hmm. That always happens, doesn't it?

A Yeah.

Q You did pretty well. Usually I don't know where my pictures even are. Where are those?

A That was my husband when he was stationed at Nenana, I think it was.

Q At the old Nenana Steamboat there?

A Yeah, I guess so.
 Q He was in the service then?
 A Yes, he was.
 Q Did your first husband pass away?
 A Yeah, he passed away in '58.
 Q And then you got married again?
 A Yeah, in '71.
 Q Yeah.
 A You can't see much of the -- this is the side of the place, but you can't see much of it.
 Q Side of the roadhouse, huh?
 A Yeah.
 Q Is that you in there?
 A No. There's a picture of me up there before I got married. I'm in there.
 Q Oh, yeah.
 A And this is my daughter.
 Q Is that right?
 A And that's my son.
 Q Where are they now?
 A My son, he died from cancer (indiscernible) down in Sitka.
 Q Oh.
 A Have you ever heard of Edna Wilder?
 Q Yeah.
 A Well, she was my sister-in-law.
 Q Oh, is that right?
 A Yeah. Here's a picture of her.
 Q Oh.
 A And a picture of her husband.
 Q Riding a bike, huh?
 A Yeah. Here's a picture of my dad.
 Q Now where was this -- with his dog team. Where was this taken, do you know?
 A That was taken down in Safety.
 Q Hmm.
 A Just a little ways from the house. Oh, here's the front of the house.
 Q Oh. Is that your husband there or.....
 A No, a friend. And here's a picture of my husband and then they're doing some kind of mining.....
 Q Where was this?
 Aat Swede Creek. It's down at Swede Creek.
 Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Let me ask you a little bit about your house here. Is this -- it looks like a little entrance way here or a storage area in the front?
 A Yeah. This is the front door that you went in through.
 Q Mm hmm (affirmative). And how many rooms did it have in the downstairs?
 A Just one big dining room and a kitchen and a bedroom off to the side, and a food storage thing off the side of the bedroom.
 Q Who stayed in that bedroom down there?
 A I did.
 Q And your parents were -- or your father was upstairs?
 A Yeah. Oh, here's a picture of the ferry, but you can't see

too much of it.

Q Oh.

A Here's another picture of their mining.

Q Hmm. Do you remember how much your father charged for people to stay and.....

A I think it was \$3 a night, and I know lunches were \$1.50. I knew it wasn't, I mean, that was a long time ago.

Q Yeah.

A Well, I started cooking when I was about eight years old. I guess I had to use a chair to reach the sink to wash dishes and a chair to reach the stove to make hotcakes.

Q You must have gotten pretty good then?

A Yeah, not too bad. Here's one of my husband's pictures.

Q Oh.

A Fairbanks -- like I said, I don't know. Here he is on that boat again.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). They're really great pictures. So you pretty much helped your father then run the place?

A Yeah.

Q Did you have any other children to play with down there?

A No. This is my dad right over here. He said he sailed the seven seas before he was 14, whatever they are.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah, he ran away from Sweden.

Q Oh. How old was he when he came over here, do you remember?

A No.

Q Did you get any schooling down there? Did your father teach.....

A No. Yeah, my.....

Qyou anything or.....

Adad taught me how to read and write, but I have never gone to school.

Q You learned a lot down there, I'm sure.....

A Yeah.

Qmore than you could have in school.

A Here is another picture of the ferry, but it's.....

Q Oh. Did you ever go up and play with anybody up at Solomon?

A No. I'd just go up to Nook. That's where our nearest neighbors were, and played with the Tate children and Patch (ph) -- Jonathan Patch (ph).

Q Did they call it Nook back then too?

A Yeah.

Q How many families were in Nook, do you remember?

A I think you have it down there.

Q Oh.

A That's where.....

Q Oh, that's what you were telling me?

A Yeah.

Q Oh.

A And I was the first one to meet Charles Lindbergh when he came to Alaska.

Q Oh, is that right?

A Yeah. He landed down at Safety in the lagoon.

Q And what did he land in?

A He had a little pontoon -- "Spirit of St. Louis".

Q Oh, is that right?
A Yeah. Oh, I wonder where those pictures are. I have some pictures of him.
Q When was this again, 19.....
A I can't remember what year he came up, but I was.....

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

Q You were telling me that -- you said you were the first one to meet Charles Lindbergh when he.....
A Yes.
Qcame to Safety?
A Yeah. When he came to Alaska, he came to Nome but the water was too low so he couldn't land, so he circled around a couple of times and then he went back down to Safety and landed.
Q How did you happen to go out and to meet him?
A Well, all morning they kept telephoning and asking if he had arrived. And that morning, my dad had gone to town, so there was this Eskimo lady, she was staying with me, a little old lady, and I guess she was scared of airplanes. When the airplane flew over she ran and hid under the bed, so I was the only one there to greet him, so -- they kept calling and then I answered this phone. And he was just about up to the building, so he opened the door and knocked, and I said, 'Come in.' Then he came and I said, 'Well, it's for you.' And he looked at me like, 'How do you know who I am?' (Indiscernible.)
Q Oh. Did you know who he was then?
A Yes, I did. And they came down and got him by car.
Q And where'd they -- they took him up to Nome then?
A Yes, they did.
Q How long did he stay?
A I think he stayed in Nome for three days, but they had the Coast Guard down there guarding his plane.
Q Oh. That must have been exciting.
A Yeah. This was taken -- oh, I don't know how old I was there.
Q Oh. That's at the roadhouse?
A Yeah.
Q Where was that taken?
A This was taken here in town, I think.
Q Hmm.
A But I think Daddy said after he -- I know he used to work for the Wild Goose Mining Company with horses, but that was wintertime, I guess.
Q Where was the Wild Goose? Was that up at.....
A I think it was an old mining company building up there, but I don't know if it's still -- if they tore it down or not.
Q Did you ever ride on the railroads around?
A Huh-uh (negative).
Q Any of the railroads?
A But my husband, Ed Maloney, he used to run the railroad from Kougarok to here, I guess.
Q Kougarok? Where is that?

A I don't know where that -- it's up that way somewhere -- or maybe from -- I don't know where he ran it from, but he ran the railroad for quite a few years, I guess.

Q Was that the -- do you know the name of which railroad? There were a couple.

A He worked for Mort Powell (ph), I think he said. I guess I don't have no more Safety pictures.

Q Oh, that's great. Thanks for looking through them. There's some really nice ones.

A Here's one of my husband's pictures, and that's -- he was off that -- whatever that -- dirigible -- or what did we call it?

Q Oh, the Norge.

A Yeah. He's got some more pictures here somewhere, but.....

Q Do you remember when that came in?

A No, I don't know.

Q Hmm. So how long were you down at Safety then? When did you come back up to Nome?

A I moved to Nome in 1947. This is my son, Michael.

Q Hi.

A What'd you say your name was?

Q Tom. Hi Michael.

A This is some of the mining crew that used to be down in Bluff, so it was taken a long time ago.

Q Oh. How did you meet your husband?

A Oh, he came to Safety when we were running the roadhouse. Well, I'll just take a look in there and see if I can find them other pictures.

Q Okay.

(Off record)

(On record)

A (Indiscernible) the ferry with.....

Q Oh.

A Oh, here's the.....

Q Charles Lindbergh's plane and the ferry?

A Yeah. And there's me and my dad and Lindbergh's plane.

Q Oh.

A Oh, here's a better picture of his plane.

Q Oh, great. Was that the "Spirit of St. Louis?"

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q Do you know where he was flying from? It looks a little -- yeah, it doesn't look like a (indiscernible).

A This other one was.....

Q It must be a different plane.

A Oh, maybe it was.

Michael: That was when we went to the Orient (indiscernible).

Interviewer: Oh, was it?

Michael: Mm hmm (affirmative).

A I'm not sure it was, but anyway it's a pontoon plane.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Who was he with, do you remember?

A Him and his wife.
Q Oh.

Michael: She wrote a book about that.
Ms. Maloney: Yeah.
Interviewer: Did she?
Michael: Mm hmm (affirmative).

A This is how big I was when they landed, so.....
Q Oh. You look pretty young.
A I must have been about -- I don't know what year that was.
I guess I don't.
Q You think maybe around 1930 or something like that?
A Yeah, it must have been something like that.
Q Hmm.
A I remember there wasn't too many cars in town. Every car
that could get down there came down, and then there was
bicycles and motorcycles and a couple of planes landed on
the beach.
Q Hmm. Was the wireless station down there when you got --
always there?
A No.
Q When did they build that, do you remember?
A I don't remember. When we -- John Reeder (ph) said he was
trying to find the title to that thing because I didn't have
it and he didn't get it from Dad. And he said he finally
went down, I guess, and he said Daddy had gotten it from
the -- what do they call it?
Q The recorder or something?
A Anyway, he bought it for a dollar, I guess.

Michael: (Inaudible comment.)
Ms. Maloney: I don't know. I think I have another one
someplace, Michael.

A That's all -- oh, I found the Lindbergh pictures. That's
what I was looking for.
Q Hmm. These are great. So where did you and your husband
first live -- your first husband?
A We lived down on First Avenue. It was down the other end of
town.
Q So you met at the roadhouse. And.....
A Yes.
Qwhen did you move?
A I moved to Nome in 1947. That's when we got married,
February 14th.
Q And what was he, your husband, doing at the time?
A He started working for the mining company.
Q Here in Nome or.....
A Yeah.
Q Hmm.
A It was called -- no, first he worked for the USAD. I guess
that's the Army, huh? I think it is, or it had something to
do with it. Anyway, he worked for the -- or that might have
been the mining company, USAD.

Q Hmm.

A Yeah, they changed the name of it but I can't remember what it was anyway. And he worked there till 1958. That's when he passed away.

Q Okay. So do you remember anything of Nome when you were -- you moved, of course, when you were really small. You were born here?

A Yeah, but no, we'd only come to Nome for our groceries and stuff and didn't stay.

Q How would you get up to Nome then?

A Well, wintertime we'd have a dog team and summertime, car.

Q Was that road always in there to Solomon, that you remember?

A Yeah.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Do you remember when Pete Curran's father bought that or.....

A No, I don't.

Qdo you know anything about that?

A Huh-uh (negative).

Q Pete ran it then for a while, didn't he? He ran the mail after his.....

A Yeah, young Pete did.

Q And then he ran the roadhouse for.....

A No, I don't think he ever did run the roadhouse. It seemed like after their dad passed away they moved, I mean, they didn't have no more roadhouse and the girls got married and.....

Q Do you remember any of the other roadhouses along the way like at Topkok or.....

A Huh-uh (negative).

Qany of those?

A No, just the one down in Bluff where Carl Olsen lives. That's the only one I remember in Solomon and Safety. Oh, I guess they did have a roadhouse at Cape Nome too.

Q Do you remember that at all?

A A little bit, but Cap Shriner (ph) was down there and they did have a roadhouse, but in the later years they had (indiscernible) -- used it for children. They had a children's home down there.

Q Oh.

A I don't know how many -- oh, like I said, I was a little girl then too so I don't remember too much, but I know they had a bunch of children down there. And then after that, this old guy bought it. When he passed then Craig Morton (ph) bought it, but they didn't have a roadhouse.

Q Who is Cap.....

A Cap Shriner (ph).

Q Shriner (ph)?

A Yeah.

Q They ran the roadhouse for a while?

A I'm pretty sure he ran the roadhouse for a while, and then later years they had -- some were a children's home for (indiscernible). They were missionaries, and they'd take the children down there in the summertime just to spend the summer.

Q Hmm. That was later on?

A Yeah. Bob Baldwin would probably know for some of these years.

Q Who was that, Bob.....

A Bob Baldwin.

QBaldwin. Mm hmm (affirmative).

A He'd probably know when -- what year they were down there.

Q Did you enjoy the roadhouse activity?

A Yeah.

Q Yeah.

A Never got bored -- too busy.

Q Of course, as a child you never, you know, it's -- whatever you're doing as you're growing up, you're always -- it's always the only life you know. It's hard to evaluate sometimes.

A Yeah.

Q Do you remember some of the people that stopped in or -- were they primarily people from Nome going through?

A Well, there was people from all over, I mean, they'd be going over -- I don't know. The Council road has been built recently. I don't know just how many years, but it hasn't been -- you haven't been able to go to Council the last -- I don't know just how many years, but -- by car, I mean.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A That's just recent.

Q How did your father get supplies for the roadhouse? Did he.....

A He'd load it on the boat (indiscernible). He would haul it down by truck, but he'd -- a lot of the times he'd get groceries from Nome too.

Q Did he ever go out and hunt or anything?

A No.

Q How did he keep the dogs when he (indiscernible) in the summertime? Did he get fish for them or.....

A Yeah. He used to have to go up the river and get fish. Then he cooked dog food for them. It's a lot of work. We'd have to get sometime -- when we'd go up the river we'd have to get up at 3:00 in the morning because we'd have to be back home by -- before 8:00 o'clock so we'd be there if anybody wanted to go across the ferry.

Q Did you have regular hours for that ferry or.....

A Yeah, from 8:00 to -- it was from 8:00 to 6:00, and then when it got down to from 8:00 to 5:00 because it was just too much work, I mean, too many cars in the later years. Then they started charging overtime.

Q Yeah. Did your father ever have any help there besides you at the roadhouse or the ferry?

A Well, he did -- when I was younger he had help.

Q Boy, that's a lot of dogs to keep. I don't know how he did it. Did they just keep them outside there or.....

A Yeah. He kept them away from the house quite a ways. He said when he took them down to Safety -- he said the only way you could take them down -- he had a horse team. I think he said (indiscernible) and he said he had this great big long log. I don't know how long it was, but he said he had 150 dogs tied to it -- this dog chain. And they had to

go up over the Cape because they couldn't go around the -- on the road. I guess it was too dangerous or something, so they had to go up over the Cape. But that was way before I was born and I don't -- I just remember him telling me about it.

Q Yeah. Did he have horses, do you remember? Did you have horses down there?

A Yeah, he had horses down there. I think we had about eight horses.

Q When people travelled around there in the summer by -- like when you were small, did they travel in the summer on those trails at all?

A Yeah, they did by horse team, but, I mean, most of the people had to walk down to Solomon or a few of them owned an old -- the miners, they had old trucks and.....

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

Aold Model-T's.

Q Yeah. You can still see a lot of them sitting out there. It's a pretty area down there. That Bluff's a pretty area.

A Yeah.

Q Is your husband's family still there?

A Huh-uh (negative).

Q Are they around in Nome now or.....

A No. Edna Wilder, she's in Fairbanks. I heard she got married just recently. And his brother, Sam, his family's here but I think he's over at Granite Mountain mining (indiscernible).

Q The name of somebody here in Bluff and see if you -- it rings a bell with you at all. I know I'm asking a lot of questions here.

A That's okay.

Q Do you remember there being any other roadhouses between Cape Nome and Safety here at all? Was that.....

A Not that I know of, but like I said, there might have been. Between where?

Q Cape Nome and Safety.

A Oh, I don't think so.

Q Did you ever get down to Elim?

A Huh-uh (negative).

Q Yeah. Safety's kind of a nice, pretty area.

A It's nice, but it's not very much fun to go through a flood.

Q In the winter?

A No -- yeah, we had them in the wintertime too, but there was so much ice and snow, but, I mean, it got up around the building but not -- the snow and ice held it back. But the summertime, it was bad that one morning. I don't know. Our dogs kept barking so I got up to see what was wrong, and -- we had three dogs, and that was in '46, I guess, '45 or '46. And these two old dogs that were older dogs, they were standing in water up to their tummies, but this younger dog, he was just getting his feet wet and he was the one that was doing all of the barking.

So I told Daddy, 'Daddy, there's water all over the house.' Then he got up and got his pants on and his boots, and he was -- we didn't have a boat so he was going to go

down to the lagoon and get our boat, but he said when he got behind the barn, he said, just like the water came from the ocean and the lagoon at the same time and almost knocked him down, so he came back to the house and turned the dogs loose and we got them upstairs.

And I wasn't too worried, but I guess Daddy was because he kept looking out that window and he told me if the house should not (indiscernible), to grab on the biggest thing I could and just hang on for dear life. But it was kind of scary all right because the building would shake when the waves hit it and I guess he was afraid the foundation was going to go.

Q Hmm. How often does this flood like that?

A Well, we had quite a few bad floods down there, but it seemed like after we left there wasn't too many. You've been down to Safety?

Q Yeah.

A Do you see those windows -- those -- I don't know if they rebuilt them, but they're kind of high. When we were down there they were up past the windows and we had to stay upstairs for three days. No drinking water -- (indiscernible) tried to dig that out.

Q Did you ever get to know -- were there people at the wireless station when you were there?

A No.

Q Hmm.

A I've known that when they had moved from there, but Daddy had gotten that building from them, I guess.

Q Hmm. Now when you were going to Bluff, do you remember how you went? Like, when you said you took a dog sled up to Bluff?

A Yeah. I guess we went over Topkok Pass. I think that's over the hill, isn't it?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). You don't remember there being a roadhouse there?

A Huh-uh (negative). We were on that hill. I think there was buildings down below, but nobody said, I mean, told me anything about them.

Q You didn't go right along the coast? And you went up.....

A No.

Qover the.....

A Yeah, we went over the hill. That was -- the ice wasn't safe to travel on.

Q There must have been -- was there a trail then up over the hill?

A Yeah, there was.

Q Hmm.

A I think U.S. Wireless.....

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

ATelegraphic Station. I was wondering how come when they -- I read a big article about this in The Alaska Sportsman. They never mentioned this though. They mentioned the first wireless station being St. Michaels, I think.

Q Well, apparently this -- they had a cable that went from

Port Safety to St. Michaels.

A Mm hmm (affirmative).

Q So they were both -- yeah, they were both.....

A I remember -- I forgot how high the holes were, but there were huge holes that were down there and they had all kinds of cables on them.

Q Hmm. Was there anything at Dixon there? Was Dixon just where the railroad started, do you remember, at Solomon?

A Oh, I don't know nothing about the railroad.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Yeah.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). How many people were there at Solomon, just Pete Curran's dad and Pete Curran?

A No, they had a lot of people down there because they had a school down there.

Q Did they?

A Yeah.

Q Do you remember some of the other families that were down there?

A There was Debby Lux (ph).

Q Debby Lux (ph).

A Walt Pitkin (ph), (indiscernible), and this guy -- I don't know what his Eskimo name was but they called him Solomon Tom.

Q Solomon Tom?

A Yeah, he had a family. He's been with us here a few days though -- stayed in Pete Curran's (indiscernible). I don't know if he's still here or not.

Q Hmm. So they had a school at Solomon?

A Yeah, they did.

Q Hmm.

A I don't know when they had their first school, but Andy Now (ph), he was an old miner down there. And he went Outside and got married and his wife was the schoolteacher down there. And then after they left, Tony Jewel (ph) was the schoolteacher.

Q Hmm. How long did that school go for, do you remember?

A It was there until about -- it was still there when I left Safety, I think.

Q Hmm. Okay. Did they have any stores down there besides -- well, they had Curran's.

A Yeah, that's the only store that I ever knew of, but they might have had some earlier days.

Q The school building still there, do you know?

A Yeah, it is, I think. They had a school and they had a church.

Q What church was it?

A I don't know what denomination it was.

Q Hmm. Yeah, that's an old map. We're trying to find out when it was published but we can't. It doesn't have any date on it or anything like that.

A (Inaudible.)

Q It shows a lot of the old roadhouses in here and Bluff and.....

A Yeah.

Q Where was the creek that your husband mined on? Up above Bluff?

A Yeah, it was down the coastway.

Q What was the name of it again?

A Swede Creek.

Q Swede Creek. Okay. I don't see it. It might not have been on this one.

A Oh, I had a paper where that Dad had recorded his claim, and it was on a -- it was -- I don't know what kind of paper it was. It was thick but it was just like wax, and I sure wanted to keep that and my girl took it to school one day and she lost it.

Q Ah, too bad.

A That was real old. It was more like canvas.

Q Hmm. Do you have any old maps or anything?

A No, I don't.

Q Was your mother Native or.....

A Yes, she was all Eskimo.

Q She from.....

A She was from down in that area, down around Spruce Creek, I think.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah. She died when I was only three months old, so.....

Q Oh. Did your dad ever tell you how they met or anything?

A No.

Q It's sure been interesting. I really appreciate your taking the time to talk to us.

(Interview concluded)