

IDITAROD TRAIL INTERVIEW - MARK ABLOOGALOOK

August 4, 1980
Nome, Alaska

Interviewer:

Tom Beck - Bureau of Land Management

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INTRODUCTION

INTERVIEWER:at an early age, approximately 14 years. At one time, Mark had a herd of over 1,400 head of reindeer at the White Mountain area. Mark spent much of his life following the herd from Rocky Point to Solomon where he sold meat to the gold miners in the Solomon area.

Mark later lost his herd when it mixed with the Nome herd. He was married in 1928 and began working in the gold mines. He worked in the gold mines until 1942 when he began working for the U.S.A.D.

(Off record at Log No. 0066)

(On record at Log No. 0119)

INTERVIEW

Q You ran the dog team from Nome to Unalakleet?

A Yeah, I had 11 dogs.

Q When was that?

A That's 1928.

Q '28?

A Yeah.

Q Did you run the mail then?

A No. I just had a dog team. I'm a reindeer herder then. Selling reindeer meat.

Q Who'd you sell it for?

A I sell it to Paulette. I sell it to Paulette and some people in Council for the work at that time. There was no more people then, 1929 and '30. That's why I quit the reindeer altogether. They disappeared.

Q Hmmm.

A I got thousand -- more than a thousand my own reindeer. They won't let me eat any reindeer. They're scared of me to give me reindeer. But that's my herd of reindeer. There were a lot of them were mixed to Nome herd.

Q You had a thousand reindeer, huh?

A Yeah. Fourteen hundred reindeer.

Q Were you born -- where were you born?

A I was born in Unalakleet.

Q Unalakleet?

A Yeah.

Q About how long ago was that?

A 1906.

Q What did you do then? What were your first jobs?

A My -- 1927 I started to work for a mining company.

Q Where was that? Here?

A In 1927, started to work for a mining company.

Q Where was it?

A Right here in Nome.

Q Oh, in Nome.

A And when the war broke out, 1942, they take thousands, all the men. No more young men. They used to have 300 men --

300 boys, mining company.
 Q Hmmm. Did you -- people used to run dog teams when you were little, up there from Unalakleet up north, or to Kaltag or somewhere?
 A No. I started herding in 1914.
 Q 1914.
 A '15.
 Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
 A When I was a young kid. A young kid, I couldn't even run for the little greenie.
 Q And where did you herd them?
 A White Mountain. But I -- my father, when he lived, he told me to mix it up with White Mountain herd.
 Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
 A And leave it there. And I herd from around about 1913/'14, a young kid. A hold it ever since I was started. Yeah.

Unidentified Female Speaker: I'll come by at 1:00.
 Mr. Abloogalook: Okay.
 Unidentified Female Speaker: It's too close to lunch hour.
 Mr. Abloogalook: Yeah, okay.
 Unidentified Female Speaker: Okay.
 Mr. Abloogalook: You come by 1:00. That's good.

Q Was your father a herder too? Did he have.....
 A He go get the reindeer from Shaktoolik, the drivers from Shaktoolik to White Mountain one winter.
 Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
 A And my brother owned that herd. And he went down to my folks. I know he was sick. I know he was sick when he stayed down there for a month, and he died.
 Q Mmmm. Hmmm.
 A He died. Around about a thousand reindeer.
 Q So where did you drive them mainly?
 A What?
 Q The herd. Where did you have the herd?
 A Right here. White Mountain.
 Q In White Mountain. And then you'd drive them down and sell them?
 A No. Yeah, I sell them, but they mix up with the Nome herd.
 Q Oh.
 A They must have mixed up around about 500 or so, and then I go get a permit. There ain't know me got the reindeer. And so he says I won't kill the reindeer a bit. He says they're pretty wild reindeer. Nobody know reindeer herder. They don't know the reindeer here in Nome a lot, but the (indiscernible) how to handle reindeer. Okay. I want to -- Mr. Fullard want 12 reindeer (indiscernible). Delivered it here (indiscernible). I was with mining company before I worked for Estaban selling reindeer meat. I want to make a better living. And then when I sold that 12 reindeer, I got a boat load (indiscernible), take it down Golovin.
 Q How'd you get down to Golovin?
 A The mail boat was freighting every trip he made. He hauled freight, grocery, whatever.

Q When was this?

A It was around 1932 or so.

Q Did you ever drive dogs over some of these trails, like the Iditarod Trail?

A That's the way -- I told you I'd go dog team clear down to Unalakleet. And from Unalakleet, actually, the trail would be pretty good from there out to -- then around (indiscernible) must have knowed that trail to Unalakleet better. We'd ride trail from Unalakleet. They got to go in land and kind of (indiscernible) down to Golovin.

Q Did you stay at the roadhouses then some, when you were traveling?

A Them people, them people used to be raised here, and I pay. There was a Eskimo who eat rabbit for their supper and something else. (Indiscernible), he feeds you with lots of rabbit there. Rabbit for their supper.

Q Which one -- which roadhouse was that?

A That's that -- at Murphy's Point. Not here; across there.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Alongside the trail (indiscernible).

Q You remember his name?

A What? I know his name well, and he says he was my uncle, but he charge me. I'm a grandchild. And he charge me more price than the white man can pay for it. I got lot of dogs. I let him feed the dogs. You know, heck, I got full of dough. Don't care how much he charged, he charged me only \$8 for the night's sleep.

Q Eight dollars?

A Yeah. That was a pretty good price them days. He was pretty glad when I gave him \$8.

Q What was his name? Do you remember?

A That man, his daughter, his daughter married to Pete Curran.

Q His daughter married Pete Curran.

A Yeah. That old man roadhouse.

Q What did they call that roadhouse there? Was there a name for it?

A I don't know what's the name for it. That's all I know, roadhouse.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A So I stopped there. My wife and I stopped there when we got married. We had 24 reindeer -- I mean, 24 dogs, both here and the lake.

Q See if -- let me show you this map and see if you can tell me how you went.

A Yeah.

Q Well, let's see.

A That's Golovin.

Q This is White Mountain here. Where did you.....

A Where is White -- oh.

Q White Mountain. This is Golovin down here.

A Where? That's Golovin.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A White Mountain. White Mountain, there's a trail here. White Mountain.

Q Did you come down across the bay here, the first bay?

A That was -- that's a bay. That's a real nasty bay. High water all the time here. High water. Real shallow water. When it's high water, it overflowed, so two, three, four feet deep. A man drowned in there, died, there was so much water. Drowned.

Q So when it was overflow, where -- did you take a different trail when it was.....

A You got to go through -- follow the beach around here and (indiscernible) cut down to White Mountain there. You got all the beach right here, and then (indiscernible) cut to White Mountain.

Q Mmmm.

A As far as you can go, that's full of water.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And I was glad to go on the Iditarod Trail 'cause there's a killer man here. That's a bad place.

Q At Golovin Bay.

A Golovin Bay. Lots of people die there.

Q Shows a trail here coming this way. Did you ever go that way, or did you follow the beach here?

A It's when we start from Golovin, and we -- yeah, unless I had a good dog team, we rode around there. That's a good dog team, we rode around there. There's no danger of high water.

Q Did you follow the beach here, or did you go up this way, do you think?

A Oh, no, when I started off from Golovin.....

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A When I started off from Golovin, I followed the ridge around here. I followed the ridge around here and go -- you got to pass this kind of a slough like.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A You got to pass that. As long as you pass that slough, you could go right to White Mountain.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Over the hill.

Q And then from that.....

A But that's -- you see, there's Golovin here.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And there's White Mountain here. Right here, White Mountain, huh?

Q It's right here, yeah.

A Oh. White Mountain right here. Now, you got to -- there's a little timber, little timber. There's some river, a lots of river. Mouth of river?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And you got to -- there's a little timber. There's a little timber around here. Around here. And then you -- when you pass this water, that one there, you can't cross this one here, but this high water, okay, you got to pass over that.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Go to White Mountain. Now, what we got? Let's see. On this side. And from White Mountain. That's a good place for Iditarod. If they make a road past that, they're going to save the people right here forever. The road.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A I don't think you got that many places.
Q Here's -- this shows the -- now, when you went from Golovin to -- down here to Unalakleet -- here's Golovin.
A Uh-huh (affirmative).
Q Moses Point's up here. Did you -- which way did you -- tell me how you went from Golovin.
A Moses Point. Moses Point.
Q Moses Point is right here. Moses Roadhouse.
A Uh-huh (affirmative).
Q This is Isaac's Point.
A Uh-huh (affirmative).
Q And Ongoluk is over here. Koyuk.
A Oh.
Q Do you remember which way you went?
A Them days at Koyuk, there was a roadhouse. Uh-huh (affirmative).
Q This is Isaac's Point here.
A No. That's where that Isaac's Point Roadhouse. That's where. That's a little bit -- a little bit -- where's Elim?
Q Elim is -- it's not on the map, but it's up in here.
A Uh-huh (affirmative). Right here.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A Yeah. Oh, that's on the wrong side. I tell you wrong. The Moses.....
Q Here's -- Moses Point is right here.
A Uh-huh (affirmative).
Q And Moses Roadhouse. Did you cross the bay here when you went across?
A Oh, that's that bay.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A Yeah. I crossed -- I crossed to -- where is that Shaktoolik?
Q Shaktoolik is going to be down here. No, down in here.
A Right. We go -- we go right to the Shaktoolik from there, above around here someplace not too far.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A Mm hmm (affirmative). Because this ice here go out. At any time, go out, this ice. When a heavy wind comes.
Q The ice would go out? And then where would you -- how would you cross it?
A The people are hunting seal, they drift out from there.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative). If the ice moved out like that, which way would you go? Would you go around this way or.....
A No, you can save yourself. When the ice goes out, you go down to that Cape Darby. Where's Cape Darby? It's way over.
Q Here's Cape Darby right here.
A Yeah, Cape Darby. Oh, gosh, that was -- no, when you -- ice out here so far (indiscernible) right here generally, then you go to Cape Darby. The wind drifts you off through here. The wind might save you, drift you out a little to the point.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A When you get to the point, then you're saved. Sometimes you

don't live. And no one drift out from here because so much windy, and never come out.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Did you stay in Shaktoolik when you were going down?

A Yeah. Yeah, I stayed in Shaktoolik.

Q Where did you stay there? Was there a roadhouse there or something?

A Yeah, the roadhouse was there.

Q Do you remember who ran that?

A My wife's cousin's husband, white man, he stayed there with his wife. He might have charged a little.

Q What was his name?

A I don't know. I forgot his name. That's a long time ago.

Q Yeah.

A He was old, and all of them have died. I don't know how they going from Unalakleet. Where's Unalakleet?

Q That's down.....

A Oh, way down here.

Q Down, it'd be down here.

A Yeah, way down here, Unalakleet. I don't know how you go. But Shaktoolik is far in that way.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A If you make that road safely, if you make that road safely.....

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

Ayou've got to pass -- you've got to pass the ocean, though, to get -- to save the people. Otherwise, they be dying if the road is not high enough. Passing Koyuk. Pass Koyuk.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And now you got to cross yonder, further yonder of where the big bridge are high enough so that you live. Building years, changes and all. It's got to be change all the time.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A From that bridge. And then from there, if you ever -- if you ever run from that where they're going to build a bridge, you've got -- that's a long stretch to make -- to make a long stretch. If you're going to make it, that's going to be shorter, shorter road.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A If you make a high enough bridge so the people can live hundred years, and they see that road when it comes through.....

Q Yeah.

Ait'd pass all the -- all of that trouble, and clear up to there. Because the Golovin Bay is a deadly place. And then you -- if you go to Portage or that White Mountain -- where is White Mountain? Right here, White Mountain. That's from there where you ever going to build a road -- a bridge. White Mountain is pretty good place to follow because right here, right here, the people, going to make a road for the people been living there for hundreds of years.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Them people. And then when they had a road from there, from there to Council, to Council Road -- where is the Council

Road?

Q There's Council right here.

A Now, you see how it -- now, you save all of the many people who million years ago after they -- you save all the people, got lots of meat now. If they got that danger out of trail. And then when they go -- yeah, when they go White Mountain, you are in White Mountain already.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And then you follow the fishery, but you -- that's a fishery where the man lived.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A The people all live with that river, fish the river up to Council. Where's Council? Oh, yeah (laugh). Now, that fishery, see how it gets so crooked?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A See how it is so crooked?

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A There's a road off crooked in there, I'm told, right now. Right now.

Q Yeah.

A From White Mountain. If they go to Council, Council, and now, if you get into the Council, if you get into the Council, you save more people life. It's the people. It's still got some mine in Council.

Q Yeah.

A They still want to pick out little gold in Council. But right now, they are disappeared when the white man -- maybe not living any more. They had hundred horses, what there was in Council. And there's a silver mine. There's a silver mine someplace around there. It must be about 40 miles. That's okay (indiscernible). Yeah, now but it closed for that (indiscernible). Silver mine, them days, 20 -- I carried 20 mules or hauling back and forth to that silver mine.

Q From White Mountain to Council?

A From Golovin. From Golovin. Yeah, from Golovin. They.....

Q Mules used to haul a.....

A We used to haul 50 horses, I think, 50 mules. The men make money breaking into the silver mine.

Q Up in Council.

A Yeah. No, to a silver mine over the hill from Golovin.

Q Oh.

A On over the hill to Golovin. There's no road at all. And then when they quit in silver mine, there was kind of a party, so the big boys wants to make more money. Lots of silver there. Hundreds of dollars. Now that boss is so much silver, he think he make too small a contract to get the gold (sic) -- I mean, silver, and they just a contractor, so much. He works there only -- last time when he come from outside, he must have worked only three or four years, and then the boss wants to have some more silver, make money more, and so he quit.

(Off record at Log No. 2715)

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

(On record at Log No. 0055)

INTERVIEWER: This is a continuation of an interview with Mark Abloogalook of Nome, Alaska. The interview was conducted at Mark's home in Nome on August 4th, 1980. It was conducted for the Bureau of Land Management, Iditarod National Historic Trail Project, by Tom Beck.

(Off record at Log No. 0089)

(On record at Log No. 0366)

INTERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- A That one you got from there now, you save all the people. And now from there, from Council, there are a lot of rivers to have a bridge from Solo- -- from Council. There's a bum road to go to Nome right now.
- Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
- A Gee, it's a bum road.
- Q Yeah. Did you -- how long did you herd the reindeers? Until when?
- A 19- -- my father, he hauled it over around about 1916 or somewhere around there, from (indiscernible).
- Q He took the herd up.....
- A Yeah.
- Qto White Mountain?
- A To White Mountain. And then -- and my father went down seal hunting down to Rocky Point, and that's the time we go down, we was a reindeer watching, and then we go down. He says he's not feeling good.
- Q You were going down to where?
- A To seal hunt in camp.
- Q Rocky Point?
- A Rocky Point. And then.....
- Q Did you follow a trail down?
- A Yeah. It was springtime. You can follow it on top the ice. And then we -- when we -- as soon as we got there, my father get me a -- oh, must be around about a -- the groceries was cheap then. And he packed -- helped me pack in the groceries for the whole summer, up to the tent. And I stayed there alone.
- Q Hmmm. How old were you?
- A I must be about -- I must be about 14 years old or something, there around. So from that 1906 with a dog team, keep on coming to Moses Point. And from Moses Point, I grow -- I be able to do anything what mama said. I helped my mama ever since. And that fish trap, oh, about up -- oh, about from here to that wall over there, that way, and they got where the fish come in. It's kind of like that. So we see the.....
- Q Fish trap? Mm hmm (affirmative).
- A Yeah. Like that. And then.....
- Q The point (indiscernible).
- A Yeah, yeah, the point. And then that one, when the fish come in from the ocean, they followed the beach and they go

through that whole to that big trap. Oh, but that big -- that great big trap. And overnight, there must be about 300 fish in there, come in. And my mother cut all the fish. There was lots a more. And he says I can open that. See, I never -- I never heard of game warden or nothing. And my mother told me when she cut -- when she got tired, he told me to open that trap, let it go out, what they wants to do. But whatever stays in there in evening time, I can put that -- that trap in that hole so it can fill in the morning. I got no clothes on; in them days, it was warm weather. Warm. It's not like now. I would take my pants off and give it to my mother where she cut fish on there. And my father from there, we got a pretty good size of boat, he can haul it. I guess he could haul 500 or more, 500 pounds or more dry fish. From there, we hauled it down to St. Michaels.

Q St. Michael?

A Yeah, my father did haul out dry fish.

Q But you took it by boat then.

A Yeah, that boat.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Sailboat. We got a little boat.

Q Sailboat.

A Yeah. A little mast on the front, one big sail. You know, across there.

Q You were sailing from where, Rocky Point to St. Michael?

A No. That's Elim.

Q And on the other side, you've got to pass the point down side, and from down side, you sail right across toward St. Michael.

Q How long did that take you?

A Oh, hmmm. Must be -- where we are, must take -- when there's a good wind, when there's a good wind, must have taken us about two days, I guess.

Q Just a small boat?

A Yeah, it's pretty -- it was a boat, it must be around about 30 feet long. The -- you ever see them whaling boats? That kind.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Old boats. (Indiscernible.)

Q What was it made out of?

A Wood. Trees. Young trees, I think. They're (indiscernible) about that now. And my father made that fancy boat, just like a -- just like whaling boat.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A You could sail in it; it was real strong.

Q What did he make the -- what did he make the sail out of?

A Oh, we had regular sail that -- regular sail. Tent. They got from Stokey, but they got that canvas large tent, and made good money on it. Lots of tent. The Eskimos sold it; they don't use too much. They sold it, tent.

Q So your reindeer herd, then, got mixed up with the Nome herd?

A Yeah, they -- it's little way, that Golovin, it's little

ways to Nome, and they mixed up with it. The reindeers mixed together like that. The Nome herd come down, and come down Solomon, and -- and White Mountain herd little way, they mix together there. That's why the Nome herder -- the Nome herder got lots of reindeer, and he took whatever's left, and Golovin herd, he got it. He got good wages take care of reindeer.

Q And your herd was -- you lost it then?

A I -- when I lost it, he take over the whole herd. Nobody knows I got that much reindeer. But the one living down -- that one got a reindeer down there, he knows I got lots of reindeer in White Mountain, and he never said (indiscernible) big herder, big chief herder.

Interviewer: Do you want him for a second?

Unidentified Female Speaker: Oh, dad, do you know where my check is? You got it?

Mr. Abloogalook: It's in the car.

Unidentified Female Speaker: Oh.

Mr. Abloogalook: Or in the drawer.

Q When did you move to Nome then?

A 1927, and I got married in 1928.

Q And what'd you do from then on? You worked in the mine?

A Worked till 1942, when the war started, and then I work for -- for U.S.A.D. for another 15 years after. U.S.A.D., they called it.

Q What was your father's name?

A Abloogalook.

Q How is it?

A Abloogalook.

Q See, you still have family down in Unalakleet or anywhere?

A That's all my family, is my grandchildren you seen a little while ago. Grandchildren. I just -- I was born down -- I raised my girl when she was a month old. That's when the.....

Q Hmmmm.

A Just myself. Never sleep at night, change diaper and feed it whatever time it wants to eat. When you're not a woman, that's the way the woman work. They never sleep because they feed it and change diapers, keep it dry. Gee, it's lots of work.

Q Yeah, I'll bet.

A Yeah. That's lots of work. Nowadays, nowadays, the people are so changed. When you -- when you want to take care of your kids, the welfare feeds it.

Q Yeah.

A They give you some food.

Q Tell me what it was like with the reindeer. How would you keep them all together?

A I keep -- you would never be surprised, but believe it, we had 20,000 reindeer White Mountain herd.

Q Just wild?

A Wild reindeer. Wild reindeer. I would take care of it.

Q Did you have dogs to help you.....

A Yeah.

Qkeep them?

A Sometime I get some of the men, tried to get reindeer. They raised a lap dog, they called it. Lap dog. It was smarter, smarter than men. You could tell, as long as you can see, like from here to Little Creek.....

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A To Little Creek, it would go get that herd. And he'll run right now, bring it right to you. Go -- they were great -- oh, must be about a thousand, thousand or so, they would pass by us. I was just sitting down here, I was sitting down there when -- as long as he seen it, I'd just wait there two, three hours, they was a big herd, but you got to drive them. I'd just stay right there.

Q And the dog'd do all the work.

A The dog do all the work. When he come -- when I -- I had him about that big, them little .22 long time ago, you could do like that, put .22 short shells.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Put .22 shell and kill a big reindeer with a .22 shell.

Q A .22, huh?

A Yeah.

Q Short.

A .22 short.

Q And who would you sell them to?

A I just -- when I was reindeer herding, I didn't -- I never have no pack sack or nothing for grub. When I started off in the morning, in the morning, I just had cup of coffee. I don't pack no lunches or nothing.

Q What would you eat?

A When I walk all day long, when I got hungry, and when I see ptarmigan, when I see ptarmigan, one shot. I can shoot the bullet right through that ptarmigan. Killed him. Soon as I got there, I opened the gut. Gut, and it's about that long. But good food are ptarmigan gut.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A And then that gut, you'd take that stomach off with lots of rock rock, take that off, and eat that meat. He's still doing like that. And I chewed it and eat it. And after I eat it, of course, it's spring time. The willow leaf, oh, I don't know how much I ate, but it's the willow leaf.

Q Willow leaves.

A Willow leaf. And then after that willow leaf, picking up all the willow leaves, just grow -- fresh grow. When I filled up, I'd go down to that creek or drink water. My dog do the same. I give him half of my gut. I feed my dog it. I can talk with him with my language. That's good.

Q And would you sell the reindeer meat, or sell the whole deer to somebody?

A Yeah. Bunch of the time. The miners. Miners then would help me lot while they was working, oh, 20 men working.

Q Up at White Mountain.

A No, in Council Road.

Q Council Road?

A There's some pigs down there in Solomon, and there was a

mine. Hydraulic miners? There were a lot of them.

Q Did you know Pete Curran down there when he was down at Solomon?

A Yeah. He wanted to buy some meat. I only give two or three reindeer meat, and he give me -- he trade me out with the store food.

Q He had a roadhouse down there, did he?

A No, it was a store.

Q Store?

A Store and roadhouse. When I got there, maybe I work on two or three reindeer. Long ways. I got a pack of dogs to the store and weighting -- weighed the meat. Oh, must be around about 75 -- 25 cents a pound.

Q How'd you pack it down there?

A Packed it with your clothes on like -- and put a holder like that out on the leg and put the legs through my neck.

Q You didn't have a dog team to.....

A No, it was night -- or summertime.

Q Oh, summertime. Okay. You had to walk, huh?

A I was trying to walk. You got to walk and pack it to a railroad train when you -- a railroad train.

Q So you walked all the way from where? White Mountain there down to.....

A From Golovin. That's where my mother was living.

Q Oh.

A In Golovin. And then I watch the reindeer so they wouldn't get to Nome-ward, driving down to that hill.

Q So you walked from Golovin over to Solomon then.

A Yeah, I made that trip twice, twice a year. In springtime, I'd drive it down to -- drive it down to Rocky Point. And then from there, in the summertime, the go to Solomon all summer long, and they'd get together and lots of reindeer at Solomon. In the fall time, tried to drive it back down to Rocky Point.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative). Was that a hard trip there in the summer, or was that railroad trail pretty good?

A No, in the summertime, you got to walk foot all the time, just like you are, no groceries, nothing. Don't pack nothing. Whenever you went -- that's only one store to me, down Solomon, that old man Pete. He good to me. He was going to get reindeer meat 'cause they was hungry for reindeer. I said I'll get you. And I lived like a -- I lived like a big shot, nice and steep blankets, sheep blanket. When I sell reindeer meat, I put on a new shirt. The -- I ask him that cart, only 25 cents a shirt. You know, khaki shirt, them days, was cheap.

INTERVIEWER: Let's stop.

(Off record at Log No. 2430)

(On record at Log No. 2435)

A But them young fellows, they played that (indiscernible) record.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A I never liked that song at all, whoo, whoo. And then when I could, reindeer, soon as I let go, soon as I'd get out from the herd, they would disappear.

Q Tell me about old Pete. Was he a friend of yours then?

A A friend of mine first class. He told me to sit there, don't go away. He would say -- I mean, that star, chewed that star, and he got his whisker on it. He'd tell story. He never have nobody to talk with. He finally married to Eskimo, and he was real happy. A worker, a good worker. Keep the roadhouse clean, clean, everything. And my partner and I, when we'd quit work, hauled him two reindeer, or three. We'd get new shirts, new pants, new shoe-packs for real cheap, and lots of groceries was cheap then. Pack all we can pack on back to Golovin from there, walking, drive about -- somewhere around 1,400, I think, reindeer or more. Lots of more reindeer down to Topkok.

Q When you stayed with Pete, where did he put you up, in the store there?

A Well, he got a big upstairs, lots of bed upstairs. He must have made a hell of a good money.

Q Did he?

A Yeah. When he got do- -- when he died, he willed it to his children, I think. And that youngest one's like a Linda. The -- when he was storekeeper, while his old man's living, his grandchild's been running the store. And I think that's the one got most will.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A Willed. But she's down to Golovin now, that one.

Q Pete, Jr.?

A Pete Curran's daughter. That granddaughter. They got a big store down there, more bigger than this. Grandpa. (Indiscernible) grandpa, he got a great big store.

Q Down in.....

A Golovin.

QGolovin? What's Pete, Jr., doing now?

A He's so old he hardly could move. He's down at Cape Nome in a big (indiscernible). And he got a younger woman. He's better off than I, I think. I got blind woman. After the woman died, this one here, that's the first woman, that one.

Q Where was she from?

A White Mountain. She lives there. We lived here until she died. No, she died.

(Off record at Log No. 3045)

(On record at Log No. 3050)

Arunning away, had to go that way. There's no home at all. I sleep outdoors; I sleep in a cave. When there's so much rain, I stay there in a big cave. I know where they are. One down at Topkok, one above -- across Council. Big cave, when it rains so hard, and I'm dry, and so I can sleep good. I have -- soon as I going to go sleep there, I pack piece of reindeer meat. And then when I going there, I make a fire a going and fried it on that fire.

Q Mm hmm (affirmative).

A It's better (indiscernible).
Q Spent your life outside then.
A Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah, that's the way they do. Some people, they never know -- I never come home to my mother all summer, and I stayed with the reindeer. That's the way I am. When it rains, I just go to that cave, stay there until it get warmed up. Oh, you going to find out who going to build that road, huh?
Q Well, they're looking to try and identify where the trail was and get some information on it, the old Iditarod Trail, you know.
A Now, I -- what I tell you is true. The bay is a deadly place, like at.....
Q Golovin.
AGolovin. Like a deadly place. That's -- you save that. And that Elim, that Elim, that bay.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A Koyuk. That's where it is, Koyuk.
Q Koyuk?
A You've got to cross that bay, Koyuk, for the Iditarod Trail around here, old one. It runs over; you got to cross that bay. How you saved, save soul forever after that. And a good (indiscernible). As long as the snow goes out, you can go to Anchorage.
Q So both Golovin Bay and that bay there by Elim were bad.
A Yeah, that's right. Yeah. Where the Moses Point.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A That's where Moses Point. If you do pass it above Elim, and not too far, you -- they can make a short road to here to Elim people.
Q Mm hmm (affirmative).
A Oh, must be not even six miles to run a road to Elim. Now, Elim people, that Elim people.....

(End of tape at Log No. 3626)

(Interview concluded)