

Call number: 02-00-90 SIDE A

Name: Pioneer Sick and Visiting Committee, Fairbanks City Council meeting etc.

Date: January 1, 1962

Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

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Series: Harrie Hughes Collection

Notes: Original on 7-inch reel, master copy on CD.

The recording is about Pioneer Sick and Visiting Committee and it's January 3rd, 1962. Andrew Wicken, chairman. The old-timers are nice and cozy. Ted Loftus is with them, bringing Christmas checks from the Pioneers. Wicken [?] asks one of the old-timers how he has been and the pioneer says something [unclear due to cross talking.]

Wicken [?] asks a couple of the old-timers whether they will attend meetings soon and tells about the next one next Monday. One of the old-timers talks about cutting wood for exercise and that now he wants to go get a moose. Wicken asks how it was like last week when it got to -60F below. The man says he stayed out about 10 minutes and then 30 minutes in the cabin. He sang a song every once in a while. They are discussing whether he can sing and play a saw, but he says no. [Unclear talking about somebody walking again.] Wicken says they are ready to leave after a visit with Mr. Olson and Alex. Mr. Olson wishes everybody happy New Year and thanks for the present.

At 5:53 Harrie Hughes says it's January 1st and that it's Pioneer Sick and Visiting Committee and they are visiting an Eskimo family in the new part of Fairbanks. The man introduces himself as Robert Tuinssak [doesn't look right, sp?] from Point Barrow and the baby's name is Eva Lee. Then there is Joe Tuinssak and Kudaho [sp?] from Beaver. The lady's name is Cora and she is from Wainwright, Edith [unclear] introduces herself and says she is from Point Barrow. [Unclear.] The boy is going to sing them some music. Harrie Hughes thanks them and wishes them well. [Guitar and singing.]

Harrie says that this was Pioneer Sick and Visiting Committee on New Year's day, 1961 and he was with Andrew Wicken, Frank Young, Harrie Hughes visiting in a new Eskimo village just outside of Fairbanks [address is given].

He reads a little verse entitled A True Pioneer as I Found You which talks about the qualities of a pioneer of Alaska and the land itself. It was made by Harrie Hughes. [Break in the recording.]

At 10:57 there is an advertisement of a bank. Then there is a radio show talking about searching a missing aircraft. [Break in the recording.]

News from the Fairbanks City Council: Radio service KFRB was told to leave a public meeting of the Fairbanks City Council meeting last night when the council went into a secret executive session which was called on a request of Councilman Darrell Brewington. The radio station accused the council for an attempt to bar the public from meetings conducting public business. Sylvia Ringstad objected reporters staying on and Councilman Ted Cox also said that it wasn't necessary to have reporters present. Chief of Police was asked to be present at the secret meeting.

Councilman Red Boucher asked the minutes to be kept of the secret session. The City Attorney reported briefly that the citizens will sue the government and told briefly about some quirks in the law and recent developments. Fairbanks may become the first municipality in the Nation that outlines procedures in which citizen might sue the city. News about a license renewal of a petrol system and a request to have a bus stop at the 2nd and Lacey in Fairbanks. Also, a progress report about the right-of-way at South Cushman that was requested by the City Manager. Councilman Ted Cox asks that the city government meets with state representatives and state senators before the legislature convenes, to discuss further problems. Cliff Berglin [sp?] who represents the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce asked that the Chamber be included in such meetings.

14:34 a council approved resolution 234 regarding taxation of interest on bonds and refused taxing them. Mayor [Joseph M.] Ribar asked that William Stroecker, Bob Gray and Wayne Wight be reappointed into the Planning and Zoning Committee. They approved contracts for hospitalization of prisoners and emergency treatments between City and St. Joseph's Hospital.

They also talked about State office buildings in Fairbanks. William Egan said that they will accept bids for a lease for a new office building in Fairbanks. More about new buildings. In Juneau Ralph Moody says that George Hayes, State District Attorney for the 3rd Judicial District of Anchorage has resigned. Mentioning about Chamber of Commerce favoring immediate repayment of the state's debt to the

Federal Employment Security –fund and Governor Egan’s statement about publicity. [Break in the recording.]

Harrie Hughes says it’s [January] 9th, 1962 news report on the activities of the City Council. Talking about the secret Fairbanks City Council session from which radio service KFRB, alongside with other press, were told to leave. This morning the City Manager Cliff Norby [sp?] made a statement about the closed session. He said that they were talking about operation duties of the Fairbanks Police Department. The meeting was called to address complaints and as a result, the Police Department will strengthen their training program. [Break in the recording.]

A woman’s voice talks about zoning to stabilize property values. A man’s voice asks about different zones in Fairbanks. The woman shows a zoning map that has zones in it: industrial, light industrial, commercial and so on. Talking about differences between fire requirements in commercial zones. Other zones are different kinds of residential zones. Talking about requirements and how to apply for exceptions and how to change the regulations. Zoning regulations only cover the city area, but in many other states they cover the whole bureau. Talking about how the population will increase and housing will extend out to the Airport Way and beyond the city limits. The man’s voice thanks the lady for talking about zoning and how it can improve Fairbanks.

Program on housing was presented by Golden Valley Electric Association. [Break in the recording.]

At 30:48 a man’s voice is talking about last night’s meeting and mentions that Mayor Joseph Ribar was absent. First they talked about the Chena Building and property taxes and penalties imposed on C.W. [Charles Willis] Snedden who is the publisher of Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Last night’s meeting had tempers flaring. The City Department Heads remain absent. Polaris building has asked for additional winter parking spaces. The council approved more advertising in phone directories which have a circulation of 13,000 copies. Also, utility deposit will be returned to reliable persons after 3 years instead of 5. Mrs. Sylvia Ringstad criticized snow removal that creates uneven walking areas and requested the situation be corrected. She also criticized “eager beaver” news-reporters on Wednesday meetings because they release information before it is a fact. About Mr. Brewington criticizing the changes that were made in specifications in buildings under construction. Councilmen Boucher and Brewington had an

explosive discussion. The council delayed appointments of members to various boards and commission until the Mayor Ribar will return. A Resolution 235, concerning property taxes was approved. A transfer of liquor license from one bottle shop to another was “tabled” after stormy discussion. [Break in the recording.]

At 37:01 Harrie says there are some excerpts from the Rose Parade on January 1st in Pasadena, California. A man [later identified as Ronald Regan, see 02-00-90 SIDE B] is talking about girls standing underneath beautiful canopies and a gondola with a young lady. There is a candy-striped pole to which gondolas used to be tied to. There is a float of beauty with lavender and white, beautiful red roses in back of pagodas with white swans. All strains of water are made of blossoms of flowers. A woman’s voice says that sometimes the flowers are not added until 48 hours before the parade so people spend all night doing the floral arrangements. There are marching bands and one of them is from Pennsylvania. There are a 100 of them. [Marching music.] [Break in the recording.]

Harrie Hughes is recording for Igloo no. 4. [End of the recording.]