

2019-01-09 PT. 2

Memorial service for Kathleen Mike Dalton

Audience memories

March 9, 2019

Pioneer Hall at Pioneer Park in Fairbanks, Alaska

Series: Kathleen "Mike" Dalton Life History Recordings

George Lounsbury talked about serving on the museum board with Mike Dalton. He said Mike had a mind like a steel trap. One time they had the Pioneers of Alaska convention outside of Alaska in 1998 and Mike chaired that event. It was held in Dawson City in the Yukon Territory. It was very successful.

Don Gray said he has never been a Republican. He was past chair of the Democratic Party. He said Kathleen shared his attitude about politics. He compared it to baseball. He said Kathleen was involved in many things. She worked hard to make sure there would be a monument named after her husband. The sign was her goal and she achieved that in the past year. He ended with a toast to Mike.

Linda Conley said she is also a member of the Pioneer Park board. When Mike had to step down from the board they had a jade plaque made for her for her service to Pioneer Park. Conley read the information on the plaque. She was bestowed the title of trustee emeritus. Conley said she had moved to Fairbanks from Nome. She went to the pioneer convention in 1998 in Dawson and that is where she met Mike. Conley said Mike was known for her beans. When she brought them to a Republican event they were called Campaign Beans. When they were brought to another potluck they were called Cowboy Beans. When they were brought to a Pioneer's event they were called Sam White's Beans. One of the members made them in honor of Mike. Conley said she spent time with Mike and visited with her after her stroke and learned so much from her.

Ruth Knapman said Mike was a dear friend and she will miss her very much. Mike, Vuka Stepovich and Alaska Linck had climbed the Chilkoot Trail, floated down the Yukon River and created the Arctic Sisterhood in 1987. When Mike found out Knapman had hiked the Chilkoot Trail and floated down the Yukon River then she was initiated into the Arctic Sisterhood.

Francine Mears said she first met Mike in 1950-51. When she first met Mike she thought she looked like Rita Hayworth. She used to call Mike Rita because of the resemblance.

Barbara Doogan said she is a relative newcomer to Alaska. She arrived in 1977. She had heard about Mike many times before she met her. Her husband had great admiration for Mike. Mike tried to school her. Doogan served as president of Igloo no. 8

Mike Gibson said he worked at the News miner in 1970 when he was eighteen years old. He got to know about Mike. When he asked who she was he was told not to do anything to cross her. Many years later he worked with her when they worked on Mead Treadwell's campaign. When he was chaplain for the Pioneers he changed up some of the things he did as chaplain. One year he sat directly across the table from Mike. She told him that she noticed he got off script as chaplain. He explained to her why he did it.

Bill Chace had once asked Mike Dalton about Thomas Gibson. She told him she didn't know anything about Thomas Gibson, but within about two days she had a nine page collection about Gibson.

Randy Griffin said he knew Mike Dalton from years of attending the Republican luncheon and at the Republicans booth at the fair. She would send the eblast which included a well written informative newsletter. At the Republican luncheons she wore a medallion. At the fair booth Schaeffer Cox was at the booth. He got on the wrong side of Mike Dalton and she chastised him.

An unidentified person (later identified as Lori Miscovich Ellison) said she didn't have intentions of getting up to speak. She talked about seeing the weasel photograph in the program. They used one at their gold mine, too. She talked about recognizing a lot of the names mentioned today. She was once on a local radio show and the one phone call they had was Mike Dalton. Dalton wanted Lori Miscovich to tell the story about the first bear she shot. Ellison said she was initiated into the Arctic Sisterhood.

Roger Burggraf said Mike is a legend. He didn't make it to Fairbanks until 1959. They moved up to Yankovich Road in 1964. He had a bunch of sled dogs. Mike Dalton came down and took photos and that is when he became acquainted with her. He has been active in the community for quite a few years. Mike was a tough lady and didn't mince words. You knew what she was thinking. Mike and her husband contributed so much to Fairbanks and Interior Alaska. He was grateful for having the opportunity of knowing Mike Dalton.

Cam Carlson said she worked with Mike within the Republican Party and it wasn't all glamorous. Mike Dalton was the clean-up lady. They would clean up about a mile of Farmer's Loop Road and then Mike would serve her calico beans. She said they need to keep up the care of that mile on Farmer's Loop.

Betty Huffman said one of the highlights of her life was hiking the Chilkoot Trail in 1974. She was asked to go with Mike Dalton and Vuka Stepovich. They started planning the trip and her 14 year old son wanted to go. She enjoyed the trip so much. They were running out of food towards the end of their trip and Mike told them it was taken care of. Someone in Sitka was going to stash food for them along the way.

Randy Frank said he knew Mike even when he was a young man. He got involved in the Republican Party in the mid-1980s and Mike was in the same district. In 2002 he decided to run for borough assembly and he knew she would help him. The biggest thing she ever did for him was to give him her list of addresses and phone numbers. They used the list to great extent and he won.

Virginia Bedford said she met Mike in 1990. She met her at the ICU at Swedish Hospital. Bedford was looking out for her uncle. She stepped out and when she returned Mike was there. Bedford didn't know who she was, but Mike was there to make sure her friend was being taken care of properly. When she moved to Alaska Mike had advice for her. She went with Dalton when they went to Unalaska. Later she had an opportunity to hike the Chilkoot with Mike in 1995 with Libby, too. She said she was able to see Mike in the past year.

Sharon Boko said they have the list of Republicans. She and Libby have been updating it for the next election.

Toni Kennedy said she moved to Fairbanks in 1990 with her husband Mike and five children. Mike gave them her home for three years when she left to live in Unalaska and Juneau. Kennedy said she was a wonderful person.

Ellen Ayotte said she knows the family really well. One year she wrote a letter to the editor and called Mike for advice.

Donna Krier said she served on the museum board with Mike. She heard about Mike when she joined the Pioneers in the late 1980s. They were getting letters from Mike when she lived in the Aleutians. She remembers one of the letters told a story about sleeping on the floor of the Orthodox Church in Unalaska. The church was prepared for a funeral including the body.

Galen Cook knew Mike his whole life. His mom also hiked the Chilkoot Trail with Mike and Bill Mendenhall's wife. He said Mike was a very special friend. He learned a lot about the historical politics of the state. Mike said back in the 1970s he had a brand new motorcycle. He brought it up to the Dalton's and George asked to drive it. Cook was reluctant since he knew not to cross Mike. George got on the motorcycle and drove around the loop. George got off the road and decided to do a few things on the lawn. Mike came out and she was very calm, but she was putting bullets into her 38 revolver. Cook asked if she was going out for target practice and Dalton said yes on your motorcycle.

Virginia Bedford said she got a call from Mike Dalton introducing herself. She was calling because they both had a dislike for a Republican official. Mike was telling her how she could get rid of him.

Joy McDougall sings the Alaska Flag song.