

Hale Burge: Then the Commanding Officer that I had, that I didn't get to know too well, but I did get to know Major Taylor that took us down to Adak Island. And later on, we had a Major by the name of Crum, who'd been a professor at the University of Illinois. And while we were working on the airplanes and this and that in 1944, November, the word got out that they would let people go for R and R in Anchorage. Everybody's afraid to take the offer and I talked to the Major and told him I'd like to go but everybody's concerned about it affecting their rotating date. And he said, "Sergeant Burge" – I was above Sergeant by then, "you take an order, we'll make orders for you and when you get back we'll tear them up, there'll be no record of you ever leaving the base and it won't affect your rotating day at all."

So, off I went with two or three other guys from different squadrons and we flew – I forget where it was – maybe it was Cold Bay and landed in a C-47 over night and then on into Anchorage. And in Anchorage I was in the transient barracks. There was a young Corporal there, he had an enclosed jeep and he had a permit to drive anywhere. He was a runner. So one day I went to ... I already went to Mount McKinley and stayed a couple weeks up there. That was a rest and recuperation and met different people up there. A young girl by the name of Mary Evans from down in Tennessee, she worked as a Secretary down in Anchorage and on and on and on. We had a lot of fun up there dog sled riding and what have you.