

PATRICIA "PATTY" HUSSEY BERG

Interview conducted by Logan Hovis
and Geoff Bleakley
National Park Service
May-27-98.
[With editing and clarification changes
made by Mrs. Patricia Hussey Berg
on 6-22-00 and 8-7-00].
Tape #1
Side #1

Hovis: *O.k., this is Logan Hovis with Geoff Bleakley:. We're here at the Kennicott Lodge. The Kennecott Kids reunion on the 27th of May, 1998. And we're talking, with Patty Hussey [Berg].*

Hussey: *Um-hum. [Sounds of Patty and unknown male laughing in background].*

Hovis: *Yeah! That's good! Patty ... What is your association with Kennecott?*

Hussey: *Well, we came up from Latouche ... in 1928, actually. And, left in 1931. I was in the fifth grade here, in the little two room school house.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *My father was a diesel engineer, and he worked in the power plant.*

Hovis: *O.K., ... Did ... You, you were a child here. How old were you at the time?*

Hussey: *I was nine when I came.*

Hovis: *Nine? Nine when you came. And then eleven when you left?*

Hussey: *Um-hum.*



Arthur Erickson, Vernon Hussey, Bruce Morris, Inger Jensen...After pie eating contest, 4th of July.

Hovis: *O.K. So you, you ...*

Hussey: *I was more ...*

Hovis: *[uncertain word(s)].*

Hussey: *No, I was twelve when I left.*

Hovis: *So, you've got some pretty good memories of this place? Pretty ... pretty firm memories of this place.*

Hussey: *Oh, I loved it. All the kids did.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Bleakley: *O.K. What was so nice about it, being a kid?*

Hussey: *Oh, the freedom, I guess. Folks never seemed to worry about where we were. What we were doing.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *And, um ... oh the kids ... We all played games. And ... And in the winter time ... they, what they call the yard gang, would build an ice rink right outside the school house.*

- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *But, it's ... what used to be the ball ... park, has receded. So it's all sloughed off.*
- Hovis: *It failed during the sixty-four earthquake.*
- Hussey: *It used to be a huge ... Oh, did it? Is that what happened?*
- Hovis: *Yeah.*
- Hussey: *Because, that's where everything seemed to take place. You know, Fourth of July races...*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *... and ball games, and ... the ice rink in the winter time. And ... We had terrific snows in those days. And ... Lot of ... snowball fights, and, forts, and ... [chuckle].*
- Hovis: *You pretty good at that were you?*
- Hussey: *I wasn't ... I was a tomboy [Laugh with Hovis].*
- Hovis: *O.K.*
- Bleakley: *You would have come up the first time via the Alaska Steamship Company, and ... the train?*
- Hussey: *Well ... ah ... let's see I suppose ... from then ... I don't, I don't remember too much about coming up, except for the ride - from Cordova. Course the Alaska Steamship Lines, that's all that used to come up here in those days.*
- Hovis: *The Cordova...*
- Hussey: *There was a Northland Transportation Company, too, that ... stopped in Juneau, and ...*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *... the canneries on the way south, and ...*
- Bleakley: *Do you have any memories of the train ride at all? Or, any, any of the rides on the Copper...*



Jane Vickery, Deb Vickery, Mary Ellen Duggan, Inger Jensen, Peggy Duggan, Patty Hussey, and Jean Presley.

- Hussey: *No, no, I don't. The only thing I can remember is us three kids crying all the way to Cordova when we left here, 'cause we didn't understand why we had to leave.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum. How, how did this place compare to Latouche?*
- Hussey: *Well, Latouche was ... seemed to me smaller.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *But there were a lot of the same people that were, there, that were transferred up here.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum. Did you have the same sense of freedom down there that you had ...*
- Hussey: *Oh, yeah. Um-hum. It was, situated on a ... w... wonderful beach. Sandy beach. Matter of fact there were two beaches that were great. And, um ... in Latouche ... in the spring when the ... sa... strawberries were ripe, there was one day they would load up all the little boats of families, and we'd go out to what they called Strawberry Island ... and spend the whole day just picking strawberries and picnicking ...*
- Hovis: *Make yourself sick?*
- Hussey: *Well, I don't recall that! But, I know we had a lot of good strawberry jam!*
- Hovis: *[Laughing]. O.K.*
- Hussey: *[Laughing].*
- Hovis: *Um-hum! Which, which house did you live in when you were here at Kennecott?*
- Hussey: *Up on top of the hill here, ah ... there were three houses ...*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *... in a row. And Inger Jensen lived in the first one. The Jacobsens [sp.?] in the second one; and the Husseys in the third one.*
- Hovis: *So, how did tomboy enjoy having the ... the tea parties with, the Jensens?*

Hussey: *The tea parties? Well, I guess we did have some occasionally. I remember Inger had a little ... her father had built a little house. What would you call that? Open ...*

Hovis: *A gazebo?*

Hussey: *A ga... that's what it was. And closed with a ... wire ... Keep out the bugs and ... Spent a lot of happy hours in there playing dolls and ...*

Hovis: *How were the bugs for you poor kids around there?*

Hussey: *They were horrible! But they were ... seemed to be just a certain ... part of the summer, and then they were gone.*

Hovis: *What would you do with, to, to ... to cut down on the effects of them ... besides stay indoors, or behind screens?*

Hussey: *Oh, we wore ... ah ... what do you call them...*

Bleakley: *A head net.*

Hussey: *A head net.*

Hovis: *Couldn't chew tobacco and rub it all over yourselves?*

Bleakley: *[Laughing].*

Hussey: *Oh, God!*

Bleakley: *[Laughing].*

Hussey: *Cried ourselves to sleep lots of times, I remember that.*

Hovis: *Um-hum. ... Well ... perhaps, that's probably the most unhappy memory of this place I've heard so far.*

Hussey: *[Laughing]. Oh, the bugs were terrible!*

Hovis: *[Laughing].*

Bleakley: *Well, between here and McCarthy, sometimes in the summer, they're the worst mosquitoes I've ever seen in my life.*

Hussey: *They're big.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Bleakley: *Yeah.*

Hussey: *They're big.*

Hovis: *And they're fast. ... Um-hum.*

[Gap in tape].

Hussey: *One time, I don't recall what the occasion would be. But, John Letendre used to tend the ... the water...*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *[Unintelligible word] old dairy trail. And ... one time, once a ... during the summer, he'd cook up a great big pot of beans. And then he'd hide them in a ... under a tree, or under a stump, or something. And, we had to go hunt for the beans. And when we found them, we could eat.*

Hovis: *Ah! Somewhere up on the hillside?*

Hussey: *Oh, well, or wherever the dam is. I don't recall ... I know it was quite a walk to get there.*

Hovis: *O.K. ... Alright. ... What was it like being in, a school student here?*

Hussey: *I don't recall too much of that either, except, ah ... I was, I suppose, an average student. ... There were three in my class.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Peggy Duggan and David, ah ... Presley, and myself. Oh, that's where I lear... really learned the appreciation of music.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *And, ah ...*

[Gap in tape].

Hussey: *... was a better student.*

Hovis: *Who was your teacher, do you remember?*

Hussey: *There was a Ruth Waters. And, a Bertha Krantz, as I recall.*

Hovis: *And they both played the piano nicely?*

Hussey: *No, they had a phonograph.*

Hovis: *Abbh, [unintelligible word] that's ...*

Hussey: *And I distinctly remember, Nola - use to thrill me to death.*

Hovis: *[Laughing]. O.K.*

Hussey: *[Laughing].*

Hovis: *Oh, yes. Ab-hub. How off... how often could [you] get new, new music in here?*

Hussey: *Oh, I don't ... know. [Unintelligible].*

Hovis: *Or, was that really a concern?*

Hussey: *No. She had ... a few; And ... But, that one stands out in my mind, because I loved it. [Sounds of people talking in background,*

door hinge squeaking loudly, and then the door slamming shut loudly].

Hovis: *O.K.*

Bleakley: *Did you get down to McCarthy very often?*

Hussey: *No.*

Bleakley: *Wasn't your dad [unintelligible word] anything ...*

Hussey: *I ... Sig Wold ... raised sled dogs down there. And he ... told me I could have a pup ... 'f, if I wanted to come get it. So, we, I talked to my mother. And she said sure. So, my brother and I walked the four miles down to ... McCarthy. And got this ... pup, and brought it home. Well, it turned out to be a six months old McKenzie River husky, and was about the size of a small horse. And mother said [laughing] ... No! [continued laughing]. So the next day we had to march it right back again.*

Bleakley: *His daughter*

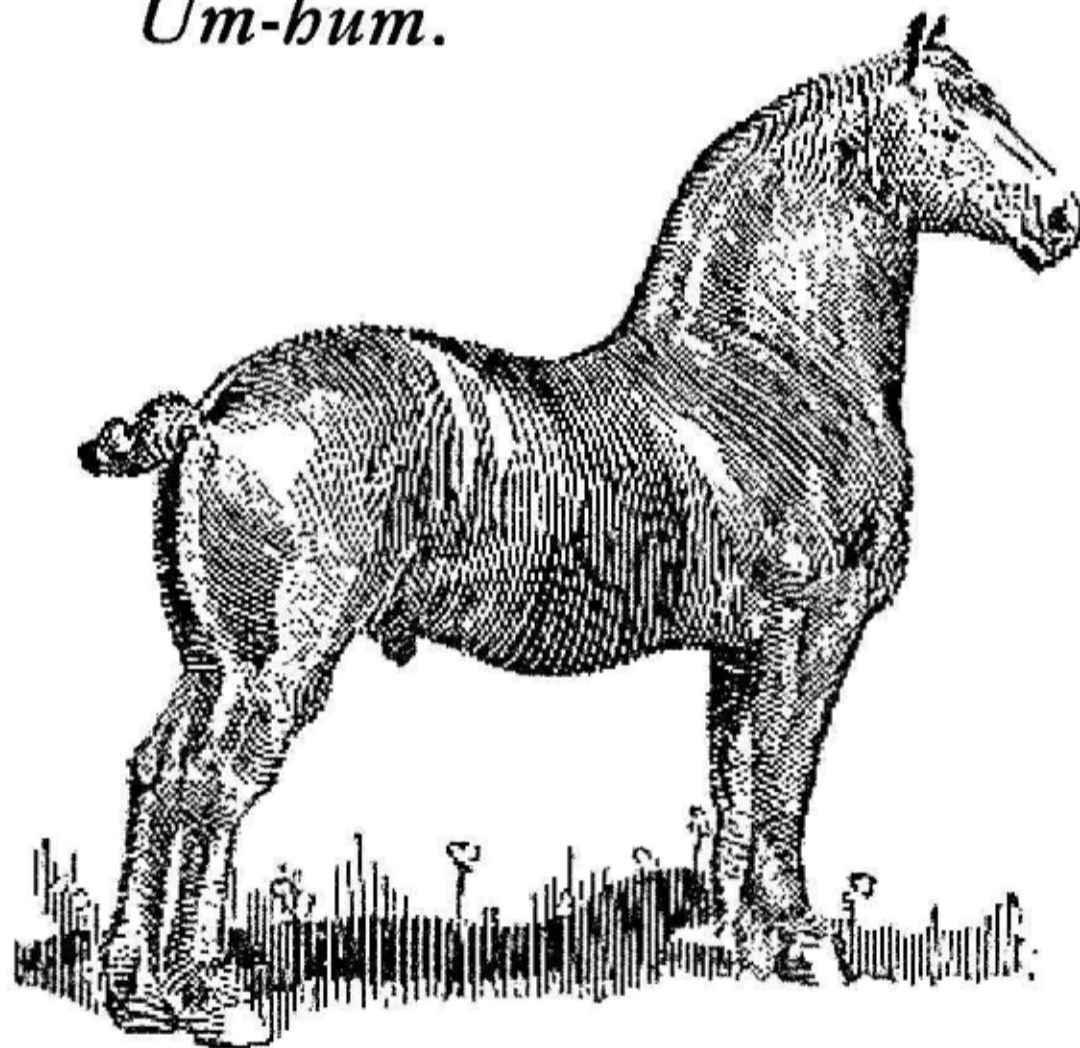
- Hussey: *That was my ...*
- Hovis: *... still lives in Fairbanks – Sig Wold’s daughter.*
- Hussey: *Does she?*
- Hovis: *Yeah.*
- Hussey: *Yeah, Sig was a neat guy. And I recall, when the snow slides use to cover the railroad tracks, we’d get supplies by dog team, and there’d be ... four and five dog teams tied up in front of the store down here.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- [Gap in tape].
- Hussey: *... great life for a kid.*
- Hovis: *You had, pretty much the run of the place?*
- Hussey: *Um-hum.*
- Hovis: *Did you go visit your father in the powerhouse?*
- Hussey: *Take his lunch ... lunch bucket.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *And then on the way home we’d stop at the bunkhouse, and ... we had Asians. I think they were Japanese. And they ... did the cooking and cleaning, and they’d fill ... a ... container with ice cream. And ...*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *... they had a pickle barrel that we used to steal pickles out of. [laughing with Bleakley and Hovis].*
- Bleakley: *[laughing] does sound like a nice life. Ice cream and pickles.*
- Hussey: *And they had a barn down here with, ‘course, horses, they used to haul things up to the mill. And about six cows, kept us in milk.*
- Hovis: *Did that ... Do you know if there was more than one barn?*
- Hussey: *No, there was only one barn.*
- Hovis: *Just, just the one that’s down there sitting in the middle of the gravel now.*

Hussey: *I'm surprised to see where it is. They must have moved it, or something.*

Hovis: *It's a most unfortunate sequence of events.*

Hussey: *[Sounding disappointed] Ahh. I used to spend half the day down in that barn, 'cause I love animals, and ...*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*



Hussey: *... got to feed them, and ...*

Hovis: *Get to ride them?*

Hussey: *No. They were these great big ... work horses, you know. You know, when they'd take supplies up to the mill, we ... get in the back and ride up ... with um, and just holler and laugh all the way up.*

Hovis: *So you could ride, they'd let you ride all the way ...*

Hussey: *They'd let us ride in the wagon.*

Hovis: *Oh, that's great!*

Hussey: *Yeah.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Probably drove the na... driver nuts.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *It was a lot of fun.*

Hovis: *Anybody ever get hurt? Any of the kids ever get hurt?*

Hussey: *No. Not around here that I know of.*

Hovis: O.K.

Bleakley: *So, did your dad ... you said you ... that you'd been over to Dan Creek; did your dad ... take you over to Dan Creek?*

Hussey: *Um-um.*

Bleakley: *Did you drive over there?*

Hussey: *Yes. It was in a car, truck.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *We were all ... piled in the back.*

Bleakley: *That was about the third Nizina Bridge I think.*

Hussey: [Unintelligible].

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Bleakley: *Yes. They went through four of um, I think, before they gave up. [laugh].*

Hussey: *Is that right? I, um ... I don't recall, except I remember these giant hoses...*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *... water and, sluice boxes.*

Hovis: *Um-hum. Was this a, an outing, or was your father in business ...*

Hussey: *Yeah, it was just an outing. Um-hum.*

Hovis: *Where'd you keep the car at?*

Hussey: *He must have borrowed it, cause we didn't have a car.*

Hovis: *O.K. ... I know there were just a couple garages ...*

Hussey: *There weren't very many around here.*

Hovis: *... there were a couple of garages down there by the barn at one time, I think.*

Hussey: *Oh, were there?*

Hovis: *But, only a couple.*

Hussey: *Um-hum.*

[Gap in tape].

Hovis: *... I think, I think you could only bring them in, in part of them.*

Hussey: *Well, it was very exciting ...*

Hovis: *Oh, goodness!*

Hussey: *... to get to go on an outing like that.*

Hovis: *Um-hum. O.K. ... Um-hum. ... Did you stop for lunch at the roadhouse over at May Creek.*

Hussey: *I think they took lunches with um. ... It was durin' the depression, and, you didn't squander ...*

Hovis: *Yeab.*

Hussey: *... money.*

[Gap in tape].

Hovis: *... even when you were in the powerhouse, or walking by the mill?*

Hussey: *Well, I suppose there was! But you get so used to it, you don't hear it! It's just like the train ...*

Hovis: *Yeab.*

Hussey: *... coming in. And, um ...*

Hovis: *You cease to hear that too.*

Hussey: *Um-hum.*

Hovis: *O.K. 'Cause, I, I can't, I keep imagining every time I go to the mill that it must have been such a terrible noisy place to work. With no ...*

Hussey: *The mill was, yes.*

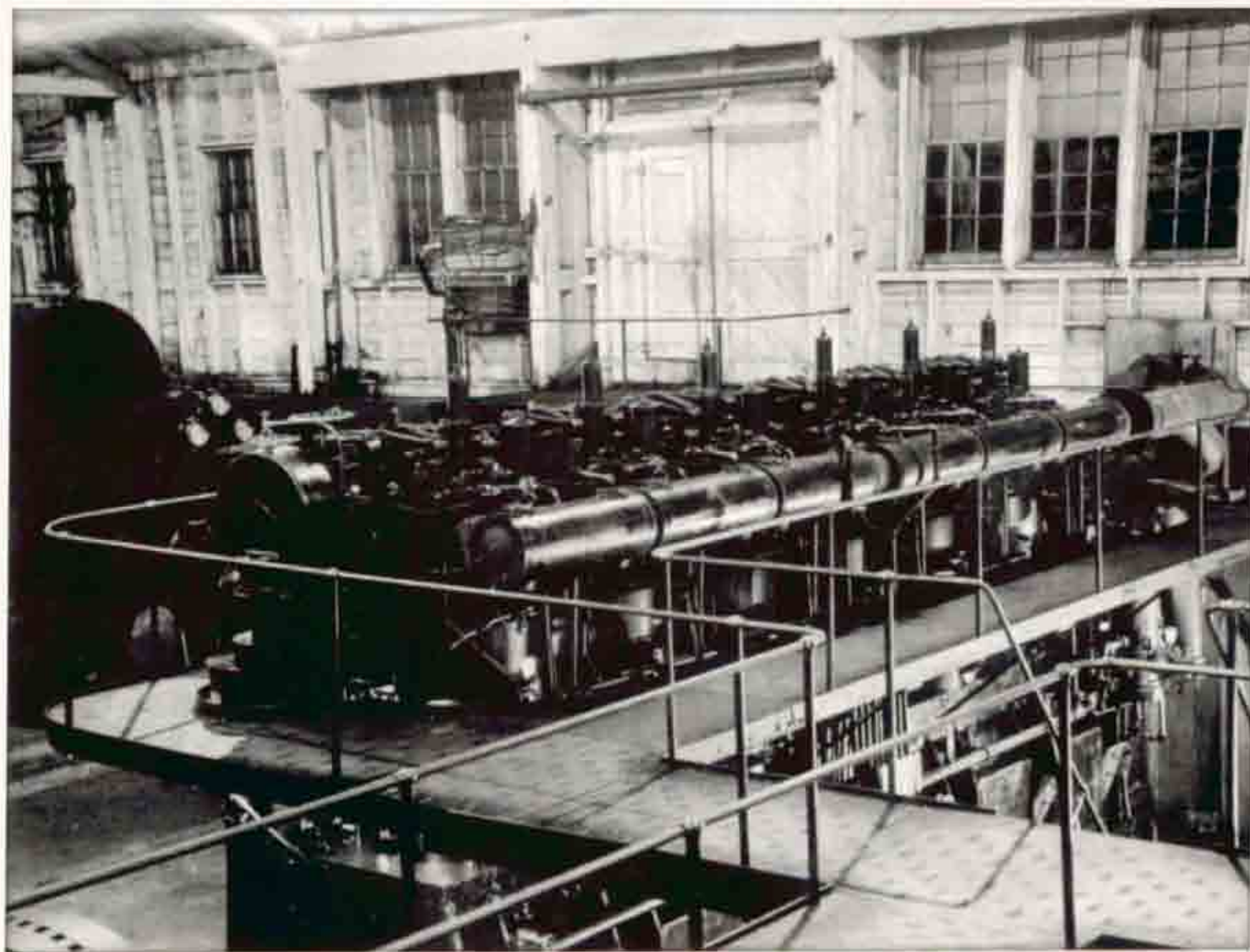
Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Us kids used to play in the mill.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Running up and down those stairs from ...*

Hovis: *Had favorite hiding places in there?*



Macintosh Seymour engine, Kennecott Power House.



*“Us kids used to play in the mill.
Running up and down those stairs
from one to the other.”*

PATRICIA “PATTY” HUSSEY BERG

- Hussey: *... one to the other. And then there was the time that ... Mrs. Whipple and my mother, sh... they had ... one boy. And then there were three of us. Went up to ... Castle Rock Mine – the Bonanza, I guess they called it at that [Unintelligible]. ... And spent a couple days there. Went a mile and a half under ground on the different skips ...*
- Hovis: *[Laughing; Noises in interview room].*
- Hussey: *One I never have forgotten, because, you laid down on it. And top of the ... the ca... caves, or tunnel, as you're going down, was about that far from your nose. [laugh]. I mean, you didn't move your head.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum. [Laughing].*
- Bleakley: *Oh, that sounds pretty exciting!*
- Hussey: *Yeah. And then they're those you stood up in. And ... No, it was exciting. And wha... when, oh, we wore carbide lanterns on our heads; And when we got down to the bottom of this, I understand that ... We were told at the time, that this was the biggest ... hole, mining hole – glory hole, they called it, in the world. And, it was cold down there. And the water coming out of the sides of the cave ... was just like, billions of diamonds, from our, carbide lanterns.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum, hum, hum.*
- Hussey: *Never forgotten that.*
- Bleakley: *Hub.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *But, it was fun ... being up there and getting to eat in the mess halls with the ... the men, and ...*
- Bleakley: *This was the underground mess ball, the one back in the ...*
- Hussey: *An... I don't recall, that. I know when the guys came down, they'd jump in a bucket, and ride down ... and would ... take the same ... route back.*

Hovis: *Did they come down very often?*

Hussey: *Um-hum.*

Hovis: *O.K.*

Hussey: *Visit McCarthy.*

Hovis: *And try and make it back to the next shift.*

Hussey: *I suppose [hearty laugh].*

Hussey: *That was a pretty rowdy town. But, as far as that ... I didn't realize, just what it was all about until I read the book. "McCarthy".*

Hovis: *O.K. Kirchhoff's book?*

Hussey: *Yes.*

Bleakley: *Yes!*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Very interesting.*

Hovis: *Good.*

Hussey: *And I, in fact I recognize some of the names in there. ... friends of my dad's and ...*

Hovis: *They organized a, a formal trip for you and your friends to go up and look ar... play around in the mines.*

Hussey: *I guess so. There was just, ah ... come to think of it, my sister was too small. She must have been staying with somebody. And there was just Bob Whipple, and my brother, and myself. And [unintelligible] ... Yeah, most days ... things were pretty loose I guess. They were ... I'm sure some of the other kids got to do it, too. I never heard whether they ...*

Hovis: *That's the first I've heard of this. I'm very, I'm very amused by it.*

Hussey: *Um-hum.*

Hovis: *And pleased.*

Hussey: *Good. Yeah.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *But, that was quite a hike up there.*

Hovis: *You had to walk up this time?*

Hussey: *We hiked up. And we hiked back.*

Hovis: *Um-hum. Yes. It is a horrible hike up there.*

Hussey: *... Maybe ten or eleven years old.*

Hovis: *It's no fun at fifty either.*

Hussey: *[Laugh with Bleakley].*

Hovis: *Did it three times last year.*

Hussey: *Oh, did you?*

Hovis: *I whined [on] every one.*

Hussey: *[Laughing with Hovis].*

Hussey: *Yeah.*

Hovis: *You ever go up to the Jumbo Mine?*

Hussey: *Ummm. I don't recall.*

Hovis: *O.K.*

Hussey: *That was my one trip to the mine, to a mine.*

[Gap in tape].

Hussey: *... it surprises me here, too. In those days, there were beautiful birch trees, everywhere. Now, you don't see a birch tree.*

Hovis: *Hum. [unintelligible] ... all is just alders. Yeah. And they, there were meadows. You could walk through, there was no tangle, or anything like that. And some of those kids on the hill built a two room log cabin. We never did get a roof on it. But, it's some place up there. And, I don't know where it is. ... It should still be ...*

Hovis: *Would you expect it to be above the houses up on the hill?*

Hussey: *Yeah. It was above the houses. ... It's up there somewhere.*

Hovis: *O.K.*

Hussey: *And not far from there, a bear had been hung ... by the neck. Black bear.*

Hovis: *Humph.*

Hussey: *And ... they left it there, till the skeleton dropped to the ground. And. I got the head. And I knocked all the teeth out of it. All the bear teeth. And, my dad purloined all those teeth and gave um to his friends, because, in those days, they wore them on the end of a ... watch chain.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *... Watch fob.*

Bleakley: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *... would be this bear tooth.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *So, I ... didn't get away with any of um. [Laughs].*

Bleakley: *So, they hung this bear by the [laugh] by the neck just like it was a warning to other bears.*

Hussey: *They hung the bear. Just like it was a ... I, I can't recall ... somebody knows that story here. Because we were talking about it*

here the other night. 'N I can't recall who I was talking to. Maybe it was George Powell. ... He was ... he was such a little kid, I don't know that he'd remember. Maybe it was ...

[Gap in tape]..

Hovis: *... You, you knew George when you were just a child then, huh?*

Hussey: *Yeah, he was, yeah ... he had wonderful toys. Kids all liked to play with him, because he had all these wonderful toys. And, in those days, everything was Sears and Roebuck, an' Montgomery Ward. And it was a very exciting time at Christmas, because ... our parents would get these big boxes from ... Wards, or Sears, and hide um under the bed. And then the school would put, at Christmas time, would put on the program.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *... Christmas program. There'd be a tree. And Santa Claus would*



come. And every kid ... All the miners put in maybe a dollar ... which amounted to quite a bit, when you just have a few kids, like here. And we all got wonderful gifts. An' ... things ... an' ... I was like ... I did the highland fling, I remember [laughing with Hovis] on the stage [continued laughing]. [deep breath] Ahh!

Hovis:

Um-hum. So, you kids were like, community kids ...

Bleakley:

Community property.

Hovis:

... Like you belonged to the whole community.

Hussey:

Oh, yeah. And this building right down here ...

Hovis:

Um-hum.

Hussey:

... right here ... was the social ... There were movies on Wednesdays and Sunday nights. And men played basketball in there. And dances on Saturday nights.

[Gap in tape].

Bleakley:

... active social life.

Hussey:

Oh, it was!

Hovis:

Now, would miners come down for these events?

Hussey:

Oh, I imagine. There were a lot of men.

Hovis:

O.K.

Hussey:

'Course ... there were just these

few families. And all these single guys. And ... heck I was, what ... nine, ten, eleven years old. And I danced with all these ... "fellas".
[laughs].

Hovis: *Popular.*



Hussey: *Well, my dad was a drummer ...*

Hovis: *Did you ever get over it?*

Hussey: *Ummm ... Well, after I was 'bout eighteen I did* [laugh with Hovis and Bleakley]. *I got married!*
[Continued laughter].

Hovis: *O.K. ... You, you ... you say your dad was a drummer?*

Hussey: *He was drummer. Yeah, they, he had a band in Latouche. And he formed another one down here.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Bleakley: *What kind of music ... did he ... did he play?*

Hussey: *Well there was a man they called, ah ... his name was Carpenter. 'N they use to call 'm needle nose. Cause he had a nose bo... a nose like Bob Hope.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *And he'd sit down, play the piano. And dad 'd strike up the drums. And, ... can't remember whether there were any horns, saxophones, or any ... Anyhow, that was our music. And ... in between they'd play phonograph records.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

[Gap in tape].

Hovis: *... Jitterbug? ... ah ... Fox-trot?*

Hussey: *Oh, that was a long time in the future! [laugh]. No, the Fox-trot ... and the Charleston. I did the Charleston in Latouche. But ... No, it [was] just Fox-trot 'n waltzes.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *And then, too, there were square dances.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *We would do square dances.*

[Gap in tape].

Bleakley: *... Just can't picture, square dances at McCarthy ... I don't know.*

Hovis: *It's a wholesome community.*

Hussey: *[Laughter]. It was!*

Bleakley: *I guess.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

[Gap in tape].

Bleakley: *... A new image.*

Hussey: *I see some ... pictures today. I've never been upstairs in this building [Kennicott Glacier Lodge]. We flew in here about twenty years ago. We drove to Chitina ... and then, Cliff and I chartered a plane and flew in. And stayed at the old ... lodge. But ... So ... And this one ... I had, just got upon the second floor ... Yesterday. [Sounding amazed] an' I sa... there's, there's pictures of me up there! I didn't know had. [Pause]. [Chuckle].*

Hovis: *There's a lot of stuff in there ... I've never seen ... I haven't seen all of it either. And, a lot of it's in the rooms.*

Hussey: *It's a beautiful lodge.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

[Gap in tape].

Hovis: *Anything else you'd like to say?*

Hussey: *No, 'cept when we left here, we ...*

- Hovis: *When you left here, yes.*
- Hussey: *... went to Douglas - 'Cross the channel from Juneau.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *And then ...*
- Bleakley: *Treadwell?*
- Hussey: *Well, the ... Treadwell was down at that time. It had been all burned out. And ...*
- Hovis: *Caved in. Burned out.*
- Hussey: *Yeah.*
- Bleakley: *Oh, that's right, yeah.*
- Hussey: *And, I used to ... look at the ... eleven o'clock shift at night ... watch the miners across the bay. And they, the old A.J. Mine, mill, come ... come down the hills at the eleven o'clock change of shift at night. And they. And they, looked like a bunch of fire flies. And I use to think, someday, I[m], going to live over 'n that big city.*
- And, I did! [chuckle]. Local girl makes good! [All laughing].*
- Bleakley: *The big city of Juneau! [All laughing].*
- Hussey: *Well, it was! I think Douglas was two hundred people. And, agh, Juneau was big. It was like, four-thousand.*
- Hovis: *Um-hum.*
- Hussey: *Now it's forty [thousand]. I know. We don't like it much. And ... really, the people [that] live there ... The valley has just grown tremendously. And that['s] where we do our shopping and everything. Cause you can't park. ... There's no place to park downtown. There's ... you can't walk the streets in the summer because of the tourists.*
- Bleakley: *Tourists, um-hum.*
- Hussey: *We have five of those huge monstrous ships almost every day.*



Stella Watsjold, Inger Jensen, Yvonne Konnerup, and Patty Hussey.



"...we stopped by a lake...(It) was a lovely day. And everybody dons their bathing suits and jumps in. And (when) we get out...we have these things—leeches, all over us. Horrible things! That was the end of that for me. I...would never swim in one of these lakes around here again."

PATRICIA "PATTY" HUSSEY BERG

Bleakley: *You're livin' out in Mendenhall Valley there?*

Hussey: *No, I live in town, actually, up behind the Evergreen cemetery.*

Bleakley: *[Laugh]. And you drive to Mendenhall [chuckle] Valley to finish up.*

Hussey: *I drive to the Mendenhall to shop. Uh-huh!*

Bleakley: *'S kind of reverse ... reverse suburbs! [laughing].*

Hovis: *Maybe you'll have to move back to Douglas.*

Hussey: *There was no bridge at that time. That was 1935, when they built that bridge that connected the two towns. And ...*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Matter of fact, my husband ... hauled some of that rip-rap that ... that the old bridge was ...*

Bleakley: *Do you ever get down there around Thane at all?*

Hussey: *Oh, yeah. We drive down there occasionally, see what ... So that's building up like crazy all along the shore.*

Hovis: *Is it ...*

Hussey: *And, matter of fact, up the mountain too. Yes.*

[Gap in tape].

Hussey: *... Still rains and rains and rains. [Chuckling with Hovis] But, on any nice day like this, you forget all about the rains. We've all got web feet! But ... We have a boat, 'n ... [uncertain word - sounds like "no"] and the rain doesn't stop us. We're out every weekend. During the salmon season, anyhow. Which is, getting more scarce all the time.*

Bleakley: *So, once you move to Juneau ... that was it? - You stayed there the rest of your life, huh?*

Hussey: *Well, we traveled the world. But ... he's in the construction business, or we couldn't ... he builds roads. And ... for sixty years he was in the business. And ... He couldn't work in the winter time. So during those three months ...*

Bleakley: *... Work construction? ...*

Hussey: *... Work construction ...*

Bleakley: *Of course [laughs].*

Hussey: *So, in the three months in the winter, we'd just travel ... the world, and ... And then we ... During the summer, we lived out in the bush a lot, building, ah ... logging roads.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Prince of Wales Island, and some of those places. I think he'd just, he'd just gotten an asphalt plant then.*

Bleakley: *Yeah.*

Hussey: *That was his first asphalt job.*

Bleakley: *I remember it was the biggest thing going on.*

Hussey: *Oh, it was ... a thrill for him to get that ... plant. But ...*

[Gap in tape].

Hussey: *... retired. I say retired, because ... he was just getting phone calls all the time ... and, people wanting to know this 'n that, and all the other thing[s]. So he went into consulting. And, now he's taken over the living room, and ... operates from the house.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *People would ... you know ... keeps him busy.*

Hovis: *Yeah.*

Hussey: *He'll never have that out of his system, anyhow [chuckle].*

Bleakley: *Did you ever get out when you were, living here in Kennecott, did you ever get out and see any the rest ... of the Copper River Valley ... Chitina? anywhere? ...*

Hussey: *No, not actually. No.*

Bleakley: *Ab, Strelna?*

Hussey: *There was no way ... to do it.*

Bleakley: *Yeah. [Door slamming shut]. The Dan Creek trip was the ... was the one trip ...*

Hussey: *The Dan Creek ... trip ... yes. And I remember ... we stopped by a lake some place. And everybody ... was a lovely day. And everybody dons their bathing suites and jumps in. And we get out, and we have these things - leeches, all over us.*

Hovis: *[In a loud whisper] Yeah!*

Bleakley: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *That was the end of that for me. I don't ... Would never swim in one of these lakes [laughing] around here again.*

Bleakley: *[Laughing].*

Hussey: *Horrible things! [Laughing].*

Hovis: *Um-hum. [Pause].*

[Gap in tape].

Hovis: *... the picnics and hikes around here were ...*

Hussey: *Oh, yeah! The Erie Trail, and ... Matter of fact, I walked out there this morning, and ... there was a time ... when there was a ... big flat area, that was just full of gopher holes.*

Hovis: *Um-hum.*

Hussey: *Those little gophers ... running around and whistling, and everything. There's none of that now. It's, its gone. It's all ... alders and ...*

Bleakley: *[In loud whisper] Yeah!*

Hussey: *Yeah. ... And, 'course, the glacier was much bigger. It's ... melted so ...*

[Gap in tape].

- Hussey: *...[glacier] in Juneau was sure was receding too.*
- Bleakley: *The Mendenhall?*
- Hussey: *Um-hum.*
- [Gap in tape].
- Hovis: *... else you'd like to say*
- Hussey: *No, can't think of anything. I'll probably think of something when I leave you! but ...*
- Bleakley: *[Laughs].*
- Hovis: *Oh, it, it ... Several times, as soon as we turn the machine off - I have to turn it back on. [Hussey, Bleakley and Hovis laugh]. ... But, we'll say thank you!*
- Hussey: *Well ... you're welcome.*
- Hovis: *And, appreciate it very much.*