

NAN MOORE HENDERSON AND JEANNE MOORE ELLIOTT

Interview conducted by Ann Kain
National Park Service
June 11, 1994
Tape #1
Side #1

Kain: *My name is Ann Kain. I work for the National Park Service. This is June 11, 1994 at Kennicott Glacier Lodge. I'm interviewing Nan Moore Henderson and Jeanne Moore Elliott. And as I did with the two sisters in 1990, we will probably have a hard time figuring out who is talking. Basically, we're just asking some general questions and recollections that you had growing up children in Kennecott. And just some of the basic identifying information.*

Kain: *When did you come to Kennecott?*

Henderson: *We were born here.*

Kain: *You were both born here? And where did your parents come here from?*

Elliott: *Our dad came from Tennessee and our mother was born in Chile. There was a Kennecott Copper Mine in Chile.*

Kain: *I see.*

Elliott: *And Kennecott Corporation from Alaska sent him to Chile. He was down there for a few years. They were married in 1929 and returned to Alaska, where they had three children.*

Kain: *So, he was working for Kennecott up here in Alaska. And was sent down to Chile and married your mother. Was she working for*

Kennecott down there? No. This is real interesting because most of the people - a lot of the people here, their mothers came here as nurses. And married. And after they married, of course, they couldn't work as a nurse anymore. So they - but they stayed here. So it is kind of interesting when having someone going down to Kennecott mines in Chile. How did he meet your mother?

Elliott: [Mama worked in a club called "El Teniente Club" which was a club for Americans (who were connected with the Kennecott Corp). She worked as a hostess and daddy would come in and eat, play cards, swim and they were married within six months.]

Kain: *So he met her there?*

Elliott: *She was so young. She was like 18 or something. I think they married when she was 19.*

Henderson: *Daddy was ten years older than mother. So he would have been 28. In the neighborhood of 28, 29.*



Mrs. Moore with little ones, Nan (left) and Jean.

And they married in Santiago, Chile.

Kain: *In Santiago.*

Henderson: *And then they got on the boat to come on up. For their honeymoon, I guess, so to speak, in Kennecott.*

Kain: *What was your father's - Oh, I'm sorry.*

Elliott: *They came to California.*

Henderson: *California?*

Elliott: *Right landed in California and then from there took the bus to Washington. And then he left her in Washington for a few months to learn how to play the piano, speak English, and swim.*

Kain: *And swim.*

Elliott: *He came on to Kennecott.*

Kain: *Why swim?*

Elliott: *I don't know. She got kind of homesick for him and she was over*

there a few months. I think she was supposed to be there a several months, but she was only there several weeks. I'm sure. And so he sent for her and she came on.

Kain: *What was his job here at Kennecott?*

Elliott: *He was a mining engineer. I think before the mine closed, he was being groomed to work his way on up to superintendent, but in the meantime the mine closed down. So that never came to pass for him.*

Kain: *I see. And the ages of you children are- Jeanne you're the oldest?*

Elliott: *Yes. I was born in 1930.*

Henderson: *I was born in 1932. '32, and then Jim. Yeh, Jimmy. He was born in 1934 in McCarthy.*

Kain: *Oh, he was born in McCarthy. At home, I'm assuming. [Since] there's no hospital there.*

Henderson: *Home.*

- Kain:** *And when you left Kennecott, where did you go?*
- Elliott:** *Tennessee.*
- Kain:** *And what did your father do in Tennessee?*
- Elliott:** *He stayed on here another year to help close down the mines. We left July 1, 1937. And he stayed on here almost another year to close down the mines. And so we returned to Tennessee, that was his hometown. He wanted us to go to school and get a good education. So in Tennessee, he never was really - I think his spirit was broken after he left Alaska. He just could never seem to hold on to anything. He worked for a while selling insurance, he worked for a while at a bakery. He worked for a while...*
- Henderson:** *Bomar Electric.*
- Elliott:** *And a plastics company and everything. He just kind of - you know - never could. I think his spirit was broken. I told my sister, when you come up here and go*
- back to Tennessee, you'll see - I think - what I mean. Because last year I was fortunate enough to come back for the first time since 1937. My daughter brought me back up here. And I said I understand now why daddy was the way he was. He never could...*
- Kain:** *He didn't go back into mining or anything even remotely ...*
- Elliott:** *No. No. Nothing remotely even related to it.*
- Kain:** *That's interesting.*
- Elliott:** *It is interesting because he held a big position in Chile. He had like a thousand men working under him.*
- Kain:** *Yeh, as a mining engineer, he was one of the prominent people in a mine situation.*
- Elliott:** *I think his spirit was broken.*
- Kain:** *Did you ever travel back to Chile?*
- Elliott:** *No.*

Kain: *To see your mother's parents.*

Henderson: *No, but mother did.*

Kain: *She did?*

Henderson: *After daddy passed away in 1963.*

Elliott: *4. She went [to Chile] in '64.*

Henderson: *Oh, yeh. She went in '64. And she surprised us, we didn't think she would do it. But she did. And when she went to get her passport to go back to Chile, they discovered that she was not an American citizen.*

Kain: *Oh, wow! All those years.*

Elliott: *All those years paying taxes, voting.*

Kain: *We are talking thirty to thirty-five years.*

Henderson: *Yeh, right. She you had to go through the process to become a citizen to get her passport to go on to Chile then. [Elliot] just kind of kept it hush, hush, because she*

had paid taxes. See she thought when she married daddy she automatically became an American citizen. That law had expired about a year. Surprise, Surprise. But she got her picture on the front page as one of the oldest.

Kain: *Aliens. Oh, boy.*

Henderson: *She is 85 years old, now. And in good health.*

Kain: *So was that the only time that she went back to Chile.*

Henderson: *Yes.*

Kain: *I mean after that it would have been easy. I mean she had a passport.*

Elliott: *She didn't want to come this trip. We had asked her to come. She doesn't really want to go back to Chile. I think the thought of traveling ... being in an airplane so long or all that. She is just content to be home working in her garden. And she lives alone. So, yeh.*

Kain: *Well, that's interesting. I know you said your brother is an architect.*

Elliott: *Yes.*

Kain: *And what professions did you two do? Your occupation now or formerly or..?*

Henderson: *In the beginning, I was in insurance and I became an agent in casualty, not life. And I stayed in that for quite a while and had one son. And he's in California, now, in the cartoon business.*

Kain: *In the cartoon business.*

Henderson: *He never grew up. And he's married. But I'm sort of retired now, but I do craft shows.*

Kain: *What kind of crafts?*

Henderson: *I make jewelry and hats and vests. And pretty things. It really keeps me happy.*

Kain: *And Jeanne what about you?*

Elliott: *Well, I got married and had two*

children. And when they were a certain age, I went back to work for doctors. I work as a receptionist. And worked for doctors for a number of years. And then I went to work as sort of - I guess you would call it a caterer at church. We did wedding receptions and ladies luncheons and things like that. I loved to be around ... I would come up here and work for him (Rich Kirkwood) for free, if he let me live in a house in the summertime. I'd just do it.

Kain: *He probably would, too.*

Henderson: *You want to sign that.*

Elliott: *And I'm retired now.*

Kain: *Have you either of you kept in touch with any of the people you knew here?*

Elliott: *Not until last year.*

Kain: *And who contacted you or who did you contact?*

Elliott: *We picked up the WSEN, I did. And...*

Kain: *Wrangell-Saint Elias [Mountain] News, right.*

Elliott: *Picked it up here and...*

Kain: *Oh, when you came up?*

Elliott: *Yes.*

Henderson: *Because she stayed here.*

Elliott: *Yeh. We stayed here. And through that I've made some contacts. She asked me to write my remembrances. [Bonnie Kenyon at WSEN]*

Kain: *I read them.*

Elliott: *O.K.*

Kain: *In it [In the WSEN].*

Elliott: *And Jean McGavock read them and she got me and Inger [Jensen] wrote me. And I found out that Jim Busey, who used to be the schoolteacher. I wondered if he was my school teacher. I went through the first grade up here. He wasn't, but we contacted each other.*

Henderson: *And Jeanne's babysitter is on this trip.*

Elliott: *She wrote a letter to WSEN, saying that she had babysat for me.*

Kain: *Who was this?*

Elliott: *Konnerup.*

Kain: *Oh, Yvonne. Yeh, yeh. I interviewed her in '90 during the reunion.*

Elliott: *Is that right?*

Kain: *Yeh. Wonderful woman.*

Elliott: *She was in the van, when we were coming up. Still babysitting me.*

Kain: *Still babysitting you. Taking care of you all the way out here.*

Henderson: *Had her in her lap the whole way out here!*

Kain: *That was probably an uncomfortable ride for her. Well, that's neat how that happened. I think in '90, there was a lot of kids*

they didn't know where they were. Inger knew where a lot of them were and was able to contact quite a few. But there is a few that got left out.

Henderson:

After we left here there was no more contact with anybody. I thought Kennecott was inaccessible. It was a ghost town as far ... I would go to the library and would read up on books. I read about it in the newspaper about the murders that they had up here. Where they killed half of a town.

Kain:

In '83.

Elliott:

And it said maybe like - killed half of a town. They killed six people. There were eleven or twelve living in McCarthy. Then I thought, Oh my goodness those people have dog sleds. There's no way of getting to get there. Part of me has always been up here and I've always thought the only way I'd get to see Alaska again is on a cruise. And that's not what I wanted. I wanted to come back here. So a Delta customer - my



daughter works for Delta Airlines. A Delta customer, one day happened to say, "We visited the neatest lodge in Kennecott. It's only open during the summer. You have to make your reservations about three years in advance." And so they happened - they said "Mama let's go back." And I said "Let's go." She said, "The only problem is that you will have to cross the river in a little tram where you pull yourself across on a cable." And I said, "That doesn't bother me." So if it hadn't been for that customer mentioning that to my daughter this would have never happened for us. And we came up last year. I knew we could do it. And when I got back, I told my brother and sister. I said, "While we are still healthy we've got to go. Before they put the footbridge in, we've got to go."

Kain:

Oh, yeh. You got to experience that tram. So you didn't come last year? It was you, Jeanne and your daughter?

Henderson:

No.

Elliott:

Yes. And my son-in-law and grandson.

Kain:

It was probably quite a trip for all of you.

Elliott:

It was absolutely when I stepped off that van down there. There was people lining the railing because they knew somebody was coming back that was born up here. And we stepped out of that van down there and it was just like that, a flashback. Me and my daughter started crying and the people that were standing up here at the railing started crying. 'Cause they were so happy.

Henderson:

It's really emotional to come back here. It is and walk up to the house that you were born in. I mean - the house looked so small, because I was 5 years old when I left it. The railroad tracks seem closer to the house than I thought. I remember playing on the train in the winter. It was stuck out in front because it couldn't go anywhere. And we would take our dollies and our dishes and play house out

there. One time we thought, "well that's not enough." We will go get some of mom's stuff and put it on the flatbed. And we had the nicest time, but it was too much trouble to take it back in every night. Next morning, gone. The train was gone.

Henderson: *The train was gone. The dishes were gone. The dollies were gone. And mama's stuff was gone.*

Kain: *And mom was mad.*

Henderson: *Mama was very angry.*

Kain: *I can understand that. Well that was in '90, when we did this. The Vickery sisters, Jane and Debbie. It was the first time they had been back. Everybody- just about all the other kids had been back. That was the first time they had come back because they thought it was inaccessible. They thought you couldn't come back. And they had never been back and they were just thrilled to be here.*

Elliott: *Oh, I just can't tell you. Hey, when we were flying over, the minute I saw those mountain peaks I was there at the airplane window going "OH!" There is something in my heart. Those wildflowers growing up the side of the mountain, it is just so a part of my spirit.*

Kain: *That you really didn't know that it was there until you saw it.*

Henderson: *Chill bumps. I could have walked forever this morning. We walked for over four hours and I can't do that at home, but up here I was walking, wanting to go forever.*

Elliott: *Breathing such good air.*

Kain: *Where did you live when you were up here? Which house?*

Elliott: *Very early on, we lived right down here next to the recreation building.*

Kain: *O.K.*

Elliott: *But we lived at the very end house going north on the left.*

Kain: *On the bottom?*

Elliott: *Yes, on the bottom.*

Kain: *By the power plant there?*

Henderson: *Yes, the power plant, four houses, one on the end.*

Kain: *So for the most part you lived there the whole time you were there? Steam heat?*

Henderson: *Yep.*

Kain: *Indoor plumbing?*

Elliott: *I think mother said we did have it. We had an outhouse, but I think at one point we might of had [it] in that little room in the back. I think we may of had.*

Henderson: *And we had ledges that we [put our] food on to keep cold. It was outside the window.*

Elliott: *It was a box.*

Henderson: *A box.*

Elliott: *Uh huh. You would raise the window and get something out.*

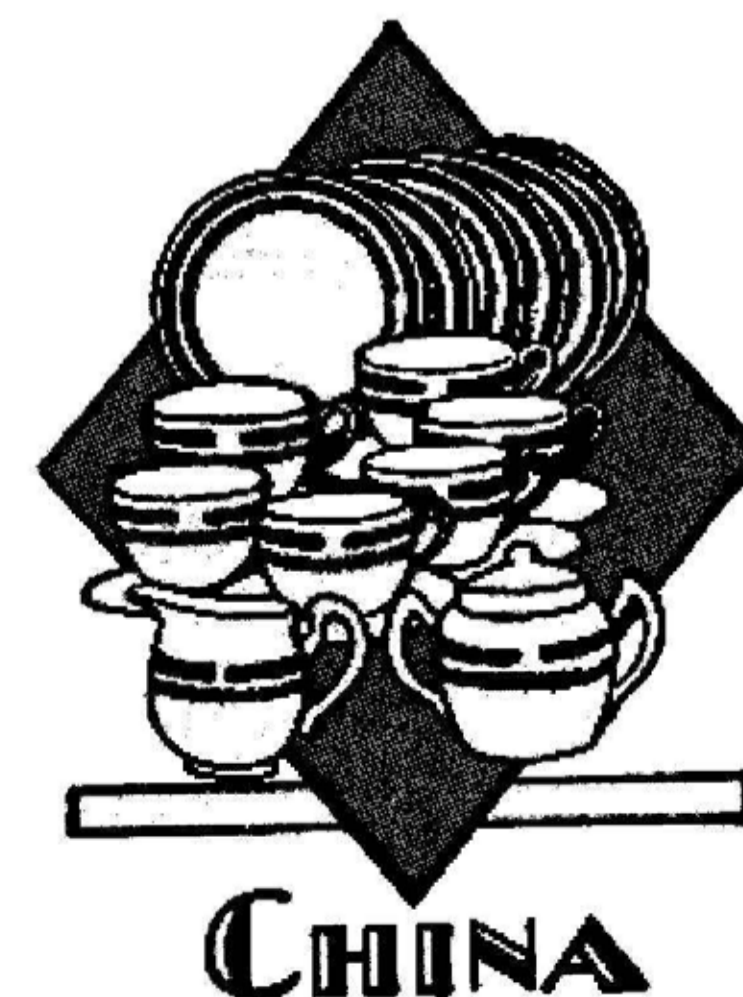
Henderson: *A box outside.*

Elliott: *No, you'd reach something and get it out of the box and put the window sill back down. That was our freezer.*

Henderson: *God's freezer.*

Kain: *Yeh.*

Elliott: *And we'd pick berries and had a garden. For a real short time, right beside the house she grew lettuce, radishes, things that were quick growing like that. They sent to Seattle for china and crystal and*



silver and Christmas presents. I often said, "mamma what are you doing with china and crystal in a little mining town?" But they'd have good times. She had a beaded dress that she wore up here, that must have weighed 30 pounds when she would go to some of these dances down here.

Henderson: *It was unbelievable. And they'd leave us at home and whoever happened to be coming by our house on the way to the dance hall would check and see if we were okay. The door's wide open.*

Kain: *They would check as they [headed] back home, too.*

Elliott: *That was a time that is absolutely unbelievable. But you know what? The spirit is still here. It's just quiet, as other people pass through.*

Kain: *Were there two bedrooms in the house? It was probably two.*

Elliott: *It was one bedroom and a little small room. I'm sure.*

Kain: *So you girls shared a room and your parents in a larger room?*

Henderson: *Where did Jimmy sleep?*

Elliott: *I'm not sure. He might - I don't know. There was a kitchen and sort of a larger living room. Their bedroom was up front. [Nan and I shared a little room in the back of the house, slept in the same bed. Our brother slept in the room with Mom and Dad. We think they made a place for us in behind the kitchen. Yeh, maybe. He was just little, but except he was a big, old, fat baby. He was a huge baby. I have some funny pictures.]*

Elliott: *There is a picture upstairs you oughta see in somebody else's album of Jim and me.*

Kain: *He was born in McCarthy?*

Elliott: *Yes, in the Snider house.*

Kain: *Why was he - was it because the hospital here had closed by then?*

Elliott: *Well you know temporarily in 1934. During that time maybe a little bit before that time, the mines slowed.. down. And because daddy was middle shot - I'm sure they wanted to keep him employed so they sent him to McCarthy to work down there.*

Henderson: *In a store. O'Neill General Store.*

Elliott: *And I think he worked in a store - I'm not sure. And during that time our brother was born.*

Kain: *O.K. So the whole family was living down there?*

Elliott: *Yes, and a Doctor Harry delivered him.*

Henderson: *Did Doctor Toohey deliver us?*

Elliott: *Doctor Toohey delivered you and Doctor Turner delivered me.*

Henderson: *It was down when Jim was being born that I got lost in the snow down there.*

Elliott: *Yeh. Three years old.*

Kain: *You got lost in the snow there?*

Henderson: *I remember it distinctly, I was gone - I was trying to follow daddy and he was going into the [railroad station.] And he didn't know I was following him. So he closed the door and went about his business. And I was completely lost, three years old. And I wandered off someplace and mother missed me and so the neighbors started looking for me and Lem Hayes came out of his cafe. And talked to his dog, he said, "Let's go find that little baby." And I remember the dog found me.*

Kain: *Yeh, wandering around in the snow.*

Henderson: *No, I was stuck.*

Kain: *You were stuck.*

Henderson: *I had one leg down in the snow and the snow was clear up to here and one leg up here and I had figured out at three years old that if I put this leg down and tried to get out I would really be stuck.*

- Kain:** *Yeh.*
- Henderson:** *So I just stayed there like this and the doggy found me. But I do have vivid memories.*
- Kain:** *I know that my kids would have a terrible time walking in the snow when they were little. Snow is too deep and their legs are just not long enough. So...*
- Henderson:** *I remember the snow used to squeak up here because it was so dry. And we could ski. Somehow we could ski and we had those tennis rackets that you'd put on your feet.*
- Elliott:** *No, snowshoes.*
- Kain:** *Snowshoes. They look like tennis rackets.*
- Henderson:** *And I remember trying to walk in those awkward things. She remembers ice skating in school.*
- Elliott:** *Yeh. We used to ice skate at recess in the evening hours. But I ran away from home once, when we lived up there at the end and I stopped by the store and picked up a box of Ritz crackers. I think that's in my remembrances. And went to that building that used to be the dairy building. There is sort of like a bridge that comes out. I don't know what that is called and I sat under there and I don't know if I finally ate up all of the Ritz crackers and decided to go home or somebody finally found me. But I remember running away.*
- Kain:** *Running away.*
- Henderson:** *Yeh. We used to send our brother, when he was three years old, down from that fourth house [we used to live there] with daddy's lunch. And he was three years old, we'd give him a flashlight and tell him to go on and take this to daddy. And he would shine the flashlight up in the air and take the little lunch pail and walk to that fourth house down to the [acid] plant or somewhere in there. Never worry about him and then he'd come back.*

- Kain:** *Yeh, I think it was on his questionnaire he wrote, "what is your role in the community." And he said, "taking my dad's lunch box to him."*
- Henderson:** *What a precious little thing. He's so cute.*
- Kain:** *You had mentioned in your house there you had a box outside the window for a freezer and you had steam heat and so forth. What about cooking? What did you cook on?*
- Elliott:** *Let's see. I wonder if they would have cooked on a wood stove. I can't really quite remember that.*
- Kain:** *Most people here - that's what they talked about.*
- Elliott:** *A wood stove. I'm sure that's probably what it was.*
- Kain:** *How about doing laundry? Do you remember that?*
- Elliott:** *I don't remember the little things like that. I kind of remember*

about how one time I caught a squirrel and I was gonna play with him and he bit me and I went and threw him down in the outhouse.

- Kain:** *I don't think I would want to be the next person using that outhouse with that squirrel in there.*
- Elliott:** *But they sat high.*
- Kain:** *They were on stilts.*
- Henderson:** *Why were they on stilts?*
- Kain:** *I guess probably because they are built basically over the tailings piles. It is a slope down, so they just put the outhouse on the end of a boardwalk.*
- Henderson:** *I've seen pictures of it and I just couldn't believe my eyes.*
- Elliott:** *You know when you're born into things like that you just take so much like the long days, short winters - I mean the dark winters and things like that. We just didn't know any different.*

Henderson:

Well we didn't know any different so badly that when they found out - who would tease us and tell us that - we would see runaway trains in Seattle which were streetcars.

We would see colored people. We, I thought colored people would be green and pink and blue and yellow. I was disappointed when they were all the same color. And dry "hot" ice. They said Jeanne was going to see hot ice. She didn't know what that was until we first saw dry ice.

Kain:

Dry ice, Yeh. Which is hot if you touch it.

Elliott:

Yeh. But it is just the fact that we had parties. You know like everybody else has told you. And we all played together and I remember going in the bathhouse and warming up a little bit and it would always smell so good. It was steamy. And Christmas was fun. We thought Sam Means was Santa Claus. Santa Claus always brought the Christmas tree at our house. It was never put up before hand. It was put up on Christmas Eve. But

daddy cut it. He went out and sent to Sears or somewhere for icicles and presents. And Sam Means would bring an old sack on Christmas Eve with oranges and apples and nuts. And visit with us. And we - really thought he was Santa Claus. You know everybody was really friendly with everybody else. They just - I think mamma said that sometimes at these parties, one of the ladies used to like to dance with daddy. She [mom] got a little bit jealous about that, but other than that everything was . .

Kain:

Kind of like one big family.

Elliott:

Yeh, family.

Kain:

Close knit family that - you know.

Elliott:

And that's what it was.

Kain:

You remember buying anything down at the store down here?

Elliott:

I remember looking in the window at a [little] doll. She's just about this tall. Got my picture made with her. She's just a little tiny doll. And

I wanted this doll so bad. And I got her for Christmas. She was in the store window. I remember going to the store with mother and I can't remember what we bought. Mama remembers buying everything under the sun- - First Class! at the store. The head of lettuce (\$.60), dozen oranges (\$1.60), dried beans, meat, clothes, yarn, toys, candy, nails, everything was first class! We used to buy a lot of cod liver oil there. You know that was our vitamin. Have you ever tasted any of that stuff?



Kain: *Oh, yeh.*

Henderson: *It's nasty.*

Kain: *Yeh, it's pretty bad.*

Elliott: *We used to have to take that. I remember buying that. But as far as buying groceries, mamma and daddy - I guess took care of that. I would accompany them and I*

remembered that when we got back home the wind was so cold and I would try to walk behind her so you could knock the wind off of me. And so I just don't know what we used to buy at the grocery store.

Kain: *You could go down there and buy candy or that's what some of the other kids remember doing.*

Elliott: *Ritz crackers.*

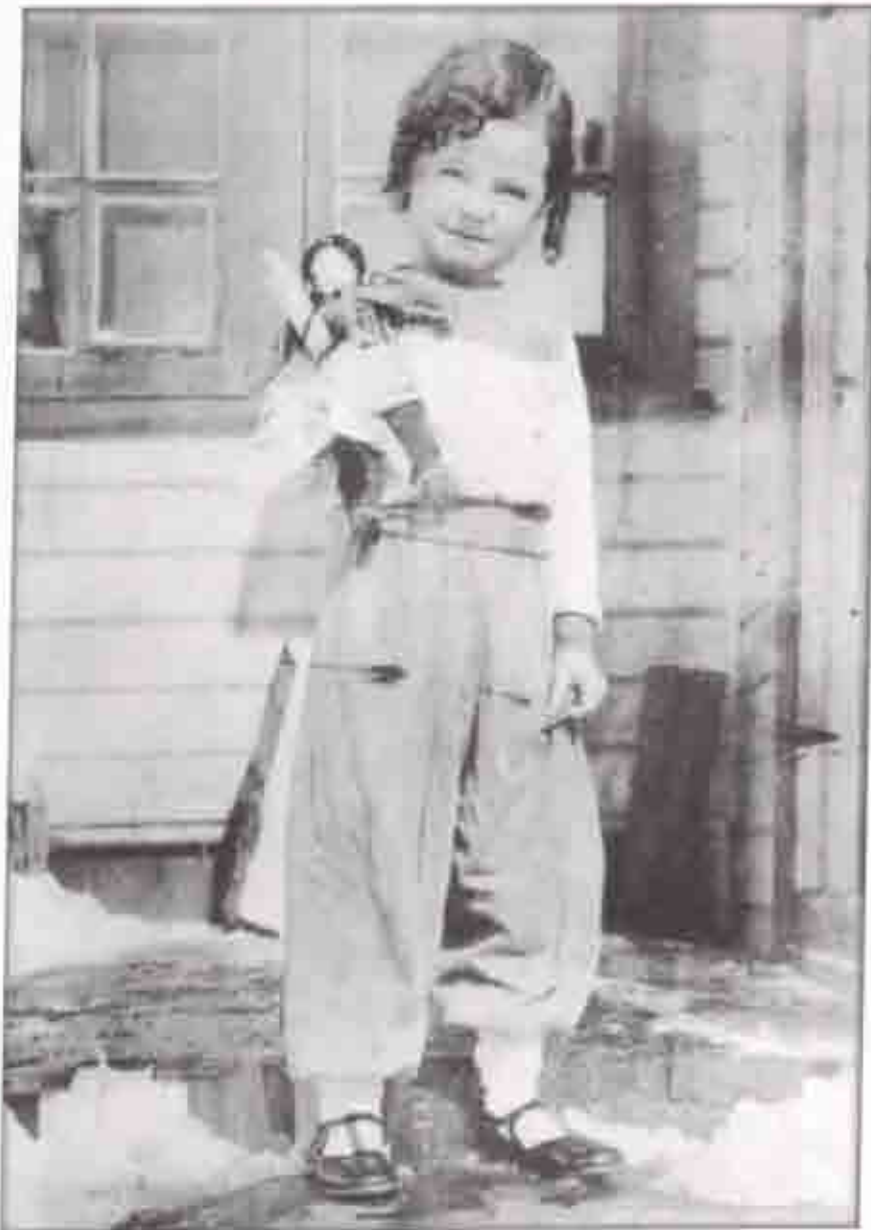
Kain: *Yeh, Ritz crackers from when you ran away.*

Henderson: *I remember that daddy worked in there one time.*

Elliott: *Yeh. He used to work in the company stores.*

Henderson: *And mother used to knit to keep herself busy. Once she learned to knit she never quit. And she used to knit our little dresses and then she thought it would be cute to wear underpants to match. And we would wear those underpants...*

Kain: *Knit underpants.*



"Alaska Squint." Jeanne with dollie at John Letendre's.

Henderson: *Let me tell you they were heavy and they itched.*

Elliott: *And they always fell off of us.*

Henderson: *So one day we were walking home from school and we backed ourselves up into the general store. You know how it kind of goes in like that?*

Kain: *Yeh, in the doorway.*

Henderson: *We got there and said, let's take these things off. And daddy saw what was happening out front and came out and stopped us before we got our underpants off of us. But we were getting rid of those things in a hurry.*

Kain: *After that did you start ordering them from Sears or something?*

Henderson: *No. I don't remember, but I can distinctly remember those horrible ... she used to knit her caps and little three piece suits when she was up here. She made a lot of mittens and coats.*

Kain: *Did she sew as well, though?*

Henderson: *Yeh. She had a sewing machine and we had to leave it behind. One of those old treadle machines.*

Elliott: *They were married in Chile and their wedding pictures were supposed to be shipped up here. And the album never made it. So the gentleman in McCarthy, that makes those [photographs]. What's his name?*

Kain: *[J.P.] Hubrick.*

Elliott: *Told her, "Put your wedding dress back on, I'll make a picture of you." So we have it - we have it with us. And it is one of those tinted pictures. And he has hung up a little scenery behind it. Have you seen it?*

Kain: *No, I haven't seen it.*

Elliott: *But you can see the chair that he has got it propped on and you can see a few little boxes over here. Precious. You know Nan said, "Let's get that taken out" and have mamma's picture up." I said, "That's part of the ..."*

Kain: *Part of the story.*

Elliott: *Wouldn't take anything for it.*

Kain: *When you left did - you mention that you had to leave the sewing machine and so forth- did you leave everything else?*

Henderson: *We could only take just a few things and I think it was mostly clothes. She took china, crystal, or silver.*

Kain: *Yeh, the expensive things like that. But furniture?*

Elliott: *We left all that.*

Kain: *Now did the furniture belong to you?*

Elliott: *Probably not. It probably belonged to the mine, the company.*

Henderson: *Where did the sewing machine come from?*

Henderson: *[It was already at the house.]*

Kain: *Did either of you have childhood diseases while you were here. Chicken pox?*

Henderson: *[We had our tonsils removed] when we got away from here. I don't think we did.*

Elliott: *I don't remember this, but I had my tonsils taken out at the Kennecott Hospital when I was two years old.*

Kain: *That was something that we didn't think about in our questions in the '90 reunion, but it came out. That none of the kids had the childhood diseases, unless they were outside visiting and got it.*

Elliott: *What about that cold weather did it?*

Kain: *The what?*

Elliott: *The cold kept all those germs out.*

Kain: *Well, that and it is a very isolated community. And they had a detention camp down the tracks here. Anybody coming in had to*

stay quarantined for awhile before they could come into camp just to keep that from happening. But the majority of the kids got childhood diseases as adults. And that's a rugged time to have it. And a lot of them did.

Elliott: *I had the measles when I was about thirty years old. I thought I was going to die.*

Henderson: *We had the mumps when we were older, too. We didn't have it [as children]. That's right, we didn't! That's so interesting.*

Kain: *Interesting things come up in these interviews. That you didn't even think about.*

TAPE #1
SIDE #2

Elliott: *It's a strange feeling to see Jean McGavock or Lyle Morris and know that I played with them when we were little children and here we are mature adults. And I feel like I'm meeting a new person and yet there is something deep*

inside that connects us, that we remember. Actually I feel like I'm meeting a - you know just like a stranger.

Kain: *Mainly because you haven't [kept in touch]. You left and there was no contact.*

Elliott: *Yeh, fifty-seven years...chopped off right then. But yet we played together and had such good times together when we were young.*

Kain: *That's what's fun in these reunions because they can kick off memories that - things that you had forgotten about or vice versa.*

Elliott: *It's a little different than high school reunions. Don't you think?*

Henderson: *Yeh, it's not the same at all.*

Elliott: *Because it was cut off, it was sliced off at a certain point in time and then picked up many years later.*

Henderson: *But we never forgot it.*

Elliott: *Never.*

Henderson: *And we always yearn to go back or hold somebody that ...*

Kain: *Yeh, to relive it.*

Henderson: *We would read anything we could get our hands on about Kennecott.*

Elliott: *Or Alaska.*

Henderson: *Any Alaska.*

Elliott: *If ever there was something on the travel channel or something on T.V. about Alaska we would always call each other and let each other know. I guess I have always said I had a split personality - part of me is in Alaska and part of me is in Tennessee. That part in Alaska will never leave. Once you have been here I don't think it will ever go away.*

Kain: *If it's been here this long I don't think it's gonna leave you now. You were talking about having your tonsils out after you left. You remember ever going into the hospital for anything?*

- Elliott: *No, I remember going in the hospital to see somebody. He was walking along, probably from McCarthy to Kennecott, it's in my remembrance, and he pulled his boot off and his toe was stuck in his boot. That's a lovely story, right? But it really happened.*
- Henderson: *I remember hearing daddy tell that story, but I don't remember it.*
- Elliott: *I remember it. I remember going to visit him. He had his leg all up in a contraption and ... And what happened to that - you know whoever it was. And I guess daddy was trying to make a point about - don't let your feet get too cold or something.*
- Kain: *Yeh, frostbite got him.*
- Elliott: *So I can remember being in the hospital to visit him, but I don't remember even being...*
- Kain: *Needing to go in yourself.*
- Henderson: *I don't even remember when Jimmy was born. They must [have] sent me out.*
- Elliott: *I do. We had to stay outside all day. We had to stay outside the house. I remember at some point in time after Jim was born. I don't know that day, that week, that month, sometime. I must have asked mother, where do babies come from? And in her description...*
- Kain: *The age old question.*
- Elliott: *In her description to me, I took it to mean a little rock.*
- Kain: *A little rock?*
- Elliott: *Yeh, right. Maybe in her translation from Spanish to English instead of a little seed, she misinterpreted-interpreted it and it came out rock. So I went out and got a little rock and I remember taking it in to the china cabinet and everyday I would go by and look at that little rock to see if it had grown a little bit. And for the longest time. And I didn't know until I got out of high school that it was any different.*

Kain: *So your mom - she did apparently learn English. Did she learn it in Seattle or her own?*

Henderson: *Yeh, on her own.*

Kain: *Once she just - after that few weeks she said, "forget it" and came up here and just picked it up as she...*

Elliott: *The dictionary, right. We didn't get to learn Spanish very much because we were busy - everybody trying to teach her English.*

Henderson: *And she would take - like to fix supper one night, she would read a recipe and then she would get the dictionary and the cookbook and go to the store. And describe it to the man at the store and come back with it all and fix it. And that's how she got what she needed to cook with. Bless her heart. That's doing it the hard way.*

Kain: *Oh, yeah. Definitely.*

Henderson: *She did it and never complained about it.*



Mrs. Moore with baby Jeanne.

- Kain:** *Do you remember being [aware] that your mother was Chilean? or Spanish-speaking? Do you remember any other ethnic groups here, of people that...*
- Elliott:** *I don't remember. I remember that there was Chinese in McCarthy.*
- Henderson:** *We didn't think of them as different, though did we?*
- Elliott:** *No. And there was George Flowers, the black man.*
- Henderson:** *One black man.*
- Elliott:** *But I never ever - I don't guess I even noticed that.*
- Kain:** *Yeh.*
- Henderson:** *And until we got away did we know that Inger [Jensen] must be Swedish.*
- Elliott:** *Right. We just never paid any attention then to anything.*
- Kain:** *Well, seems a lot of the people here were Norwegian - Scandinavian.*
- Elliott:** *Yes.*
- Kain:** *You know there was a big contingent.*
- Henderson:** *Scandinavian. Eskimo dogs then. It was just people I guess so.*
- Kain:** *Right, right.*
- Elliott:** *We were really quite - you know.*
- Kain:** *Oh, yeh. You mentioned the dances and so forth that your mom had a fancy dress. What other social activities do you remember?*
- Henderson:** *I remember that they had people in to eat dinner at home. And we couldn't join them. We would either eat first and be in another room.*
- Elliott:** *If they had - if the Catholic priest came through, they would have him at their house and have the service there. There was a few Catholics here. And I remember the Christmas parties down here at the recreation hall, where we would get gifts from Santa Claus.*

[They used to invite folks over for dinner a lot. The Richardsons; John Letendre, Joe Melloy, and the nurses - - they would serve roast beef, mashed potatoes - used to bake sourdough bread, lemon pies - - make homemade ice cream - -]

Kain: *Right.*

Elliott: *And I remember that my brother and sister and I used to make sawdust pies.*

Henderson: *I don't remember birthdays. Do you remember celebrating birthdays up here?*

Elliott: *No.*

Henderson: *I don't either. Wonder if we did? I don't know. I don't remember birthday parties and birthday cake.*

Elliott: *We don't have birthday pictures and stuff.*

Kain: *What about the movies?*

Elliott: *No, I don't remember the movies.*

Henderson: *I heard that they had them, but I don't even remember where they had them.*

Elliott: *Down here in the recreation hall.*

Kain: *In the recreation hall.*

Elliott: *Nan and I used to love to go down to the dump. And pick up old dishes.*

Kain: *Old dishes.*

Henderson: *I still love flea markets.*

Elliott: *That's where that comes from. And pots and make mud pies. You know how mud pies sound when you stir them up in a tin.*

Kain: *Yeh.*

Elliott: *I love it to this day.*

Kain: *There must be something about the dumps here in Kennicott. My children - when we were here about six or seven years ago - they [were] delighted. They found a rope and they were rapelling down*

the tailings pile here into the end of the cans and just looking through all that stuff.

Elliott: *Did they find anything?*

Kain: *There was a tea kettle that someone had been shooting at - it had a bunch of holes in it. Every time I was looking for them I knew where they were. They had rappelled down that tailings pile.*

Elliott: *I know. Hey, that's a good ways down. Did the earthquake do that?*

Kain: *I don't think so. I think it is just all sloughed off. I don't know.*

Elliott: *Yeh, because I think second base from the ball field out near the school was way down beside the marker that they have for second base. It was way down the side. And I thought somebody said that the earthquake dropped it about 30 feet back in there.*

Kain: *That could be. I don't know. I'm not...*

Elliott: *I know the glacier is way down.*

Kain: *Yeh. And a lot of that could be the glacier receding and everything just sloughing off, too.*

Elliott: *Anyhow it is still just as beautiful. It is more grown up, of course. It is absolutely a sight for sore eyes as far as I'm concerned. And it is for my sister too.*

Henderson: *I remember that everything was red, maroon, and white. That stuck real vividly in my mind.*

Kain: *Yeh. That's still trying to be those colors.*

Henderson: *Yeh, and that really jogs your memory, when you see all of that. You just can't realize that you were here once.*

Kain: *Yeh, definitely. You were talking about the ball field - you know second base being, disappearing. What other activities did you do? You went ice skating during recess?*

- Elliott: *Right.*
- Kain: *Did you participate in ball games or...*
- Henderson: *I didn't.*
- Elliott: *I don't remember doing that. I don't remember swinging or - I just remember ice skating and going to school.*
- Kain: *How about the tennis courts?*
- Henderson: *We used to chase red tennis balls for daddy and Dr. Toohey. But never played.*
- Elliott: *I don't remember doing that. I just remember being at the tennis court. I don't remember ever. . .*
- Henderson: *I remember that it was wooden. That's about all. And the red tennis balls. And they had to shovel the snow up into the corners all the time to play. But it was kind of like golf. You go to play whether it was snow on the tennis court or not. We were going to play. But I never played.*
- Kain: *How about the 4th of July activities?*
- Elliott: *I don't remember anything.*
- Henderson: *I don't remember a thing about that.*
- Kain: *None of those.*
- Henderson: *Was there a parade and stuff?*
- Kain: *Everybody usually went to McCarthy. You always had the big - they had parades down there and races and they had the McCarthy/Kennecott baseball game.*
- Elliott: *I don't remember anything.*
- Henderson: *Did the train go from here to McCarthy?*
- Elliott: *Yeh, that's the road we came up on.*
- Henderson: *That was the railroad track.*
- Elliott: *Yeh, that's the railroad track.*

Kain: *So, your parents had people over for dinner and did they invite any of the single people over for dinner? People in the staff house?*

Elliott: *I don't know. I'm sure they did. You know...*

Henderson: *It couldn't have been a very large group because the house was so small.*

Elliott: *Yeh, and they were always going up to John Letendre's house. We had a lot of pictures when we were going up there.*

Kain: *Yeh.*

Elliott: *And...*

Henderson: *And that's hard to get to, too. Isn't it?*

Elliott: *Well, it probably wasn't then. Of course, it's so grown up now.*

Henderson: *That bridge. Did you have to cross that bridge?*

Elliott: *Yes, uh huh. But it is different now, sister, the landscape where it had the flood washing down.*

Kain: *The National creek is flooded quite a bit down there. Wiped - out a lot of things that were there. There was another road up there running along the side of the creek, which you can't get. It is nonexistent now.*

Henderson: *[Gee, I don't know what else they did.]*

Elliott: *I don't know either. They used to go down to the recreation hall.*

Henderson: *Daddy was in the mines during the week, though?*

Elliott: *He was gone a lot during the week and come home on the weekend. He'd tried to fix mama a radio. He'd try to take a wire way back there on the glacier and erect a pole or something and receive radio station and stuff. We had one of those radios shaped like this and...*

Kain: *Did it succeed?*

Elliott: *I think it did. I think she said they were able to get something. It probably wasn't real clear. But she was able to get a little something. So she had no idea when she was marrying him. I said, "mama, did you realize when you married him how far away you were going from your mom and dad?" She said, "well, I knew I was going to another country," but she said she didn't know where. Boy she went from one pole to the other.*

Kain: *Yeh, yeh. From Chile, Santiago - no less, way down.*

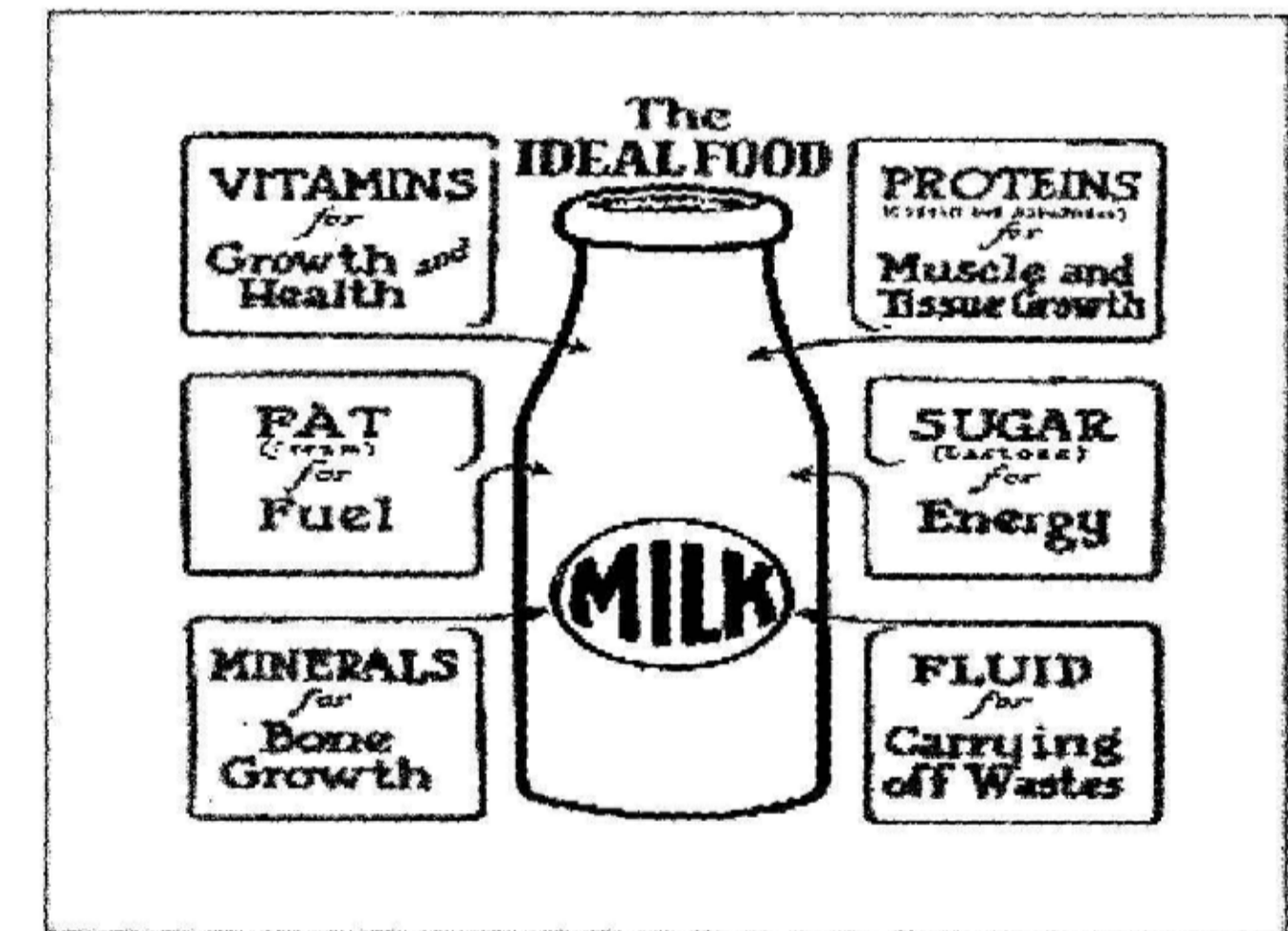
Henderson: *So it ... May as well have taken her to Prudhoe Bay. Bless her heart. She weathered it though. And she came out fine. This is something we used to drink. This is powdered milk and I found this at the flea market. It is Klim.*

Kain: *Klim powdered milk.*

Henderson: *And it's milk spelled backwards. And it was nasty tasting. Put it with*

water and get a eggbeater and mix it up. And never really mixed real good.

Elliott: *But we thought it tasted O.K. [They used to make the best homemade ice cream out of that KLIM - Mama mixed it up with a beater the night before, - and when we drank it the next day, it tasted just fine to all of us.]*



Henderson: *We didn't know real milk.*

Kain: *Yeh, until you had real milk that's when you realize it.*

Elliott: *Yeh, when we were here I think the dairy was nonexistent.*

Kain: *It was in - earlier on that it was quite.*

Henderson: *Yeh, why did they quit?*

Elliott: *I have no - maybe it was here and she just didn't know - remember it. Mama is having a little bit of a hard time remembering a few things. And sometimes I jog her memory about stuff. And sometimes she jogs my memory about stuff.*

Kain: *I know they used to have a creamery where they would take the cream off of the milk and everything too. So, but you were here late in the mine operation and maybe it was See it already closed - I think when you guys - when your brother was born down in McCarthy - was probably the year it [the mill] was closed. They closed it for a year or two and then reopened it on minimal level and completely closed it in '36 or '38, which ever. And so that was - you were kind of here on the down side of things and they may have already [closed the dairy]. You may*

have had milk early on and then when they closed it down that one time they took the cattle out and thought, Well, let's not bring all of that back in. So. . .

Henderson: *I don't even remember getting mail, but I think we did.*

Elliott: *Oh, yeh. There was mail, Post Office, right next door. Next to the store. And we had to pick up our own mail, I guess.*

Kain: *There's still pigeon holes in there for mail.*

Elliott: *We can peek in the window and see that. We had an aunt back in Tennessee who used to send us little matching dresses. We got a lot of pictures that we had to make to show her how good we liked them.*

Henderson: *And for some strange reason we could remember the color of those dresses. All of them.*

Kain: *My mom used to dress my sister and I that way, also. And we*



Joe Meloy (left). Children, front to back: Jim and Nan Moore, Tommy O'Neill, and Jeanne Moore. Mrs. Moore fusses with baby Jim.



“It’s a strange feeling to see Jean McGavock or Lyle Morris and know that I played with them when we were little children and here we are mature adults. And I feel like I’m meeting a new person and yet there is something deep inside that connects us...”

JEANNE MOORE ELLIOT

weren't twins, but we were like you guys was. I can remember some of the dresses we had, too. Of course, it wasn't 50 years ago, but approaching that.

Elliott:

You know it was just a great life. I'm sorry that my children didn't get to experience that in their lifetime and my grandchildren, because it was a really unique way of life. We had everything. The train brought up everything that you could possibly want.

Kain:

Yeh.

Elliott:

And I.

Henderson:

It wouldn't satisfy people today, though what we had then.

Kain:

No, but when you think of the time. It was like you were saying, Jeanne that it was - you had it better here than a lot of people out in the Lower 48 at that time.

Elliott:

Exactly. Absolutely.

Kain:

It was - I mean power, heat, electricity - like I said power, running water. There are a lot of places in the Lower 48 that didn't get that until much later. And some of the rural areas didn't even get it until the late 1950s, early '60s.

Elliott:

We had a hospital. We had a store. We had our little garden and they participated in the community garden. And mama used to talk about making blueberry pie. She said they were never the same in the Lower 48, 'cause the blueberries up here are so much bigger. And I remember all of the wildflowers, that's what the mountains and the wildflowers - are just something I can never...

Henderson:

Where do you think she got that turkey that she cooked one time, because she served it upside down. Don't you remember her telling that?

Elliott:

They probably sent out for it. And had it delivered at the store.

- Kain:** *Yeh, from what we've found out in some - during the 1990 reunion. A lot of I think it was at Christmas the company supplied every family with a turkey.*
- Henderson:** *That was it. I remember now.*
- Kain:** *They haul them all here on a train and every family got a turkey for Christmas and maybe Thanksgiving. I'm not sure.*
- Elliott:** *See things like that. You know.*
- Kain:** *That's what's fun about - you know, interviewing people because you can tell me a lot of things. But things that you may not remember I can know from what they told me before and maybe jog your memory and...*
- Henderson:** *That just did because now that fits that piece of the puzzle. Where did that turkey come from? And that's where it came from.*
- Elliott:** *The mine provided a lot of the ...*
- Kain:** *Yeh, they definitely did.*

- Henderson:** *Well, mama served it upside down on a platter because it just looked nicer. She said that it had its legs up in the air and everything and it looked so nice. So she turned it over to look like it was going to crawl off the plate and everybody was just giggling when she served it. She didn't know why they were laughing. She was a sweetheart.*
- Kain:** *So after, your mom never came back, your dad never came back, none of you ever came back up. This is the first time you have been up here, is it Nan?*
- Henderson:** *Right, 57 years.*
- Kain:** *And this is the first time Jim virtually has been here because he doesn't remember at all right.*
- Henderson:** *But he is loving every minute.*
- Kain:** *Oh, I can tell. He's really in to it.*
- Elliott:** *He's absorbing so much from what he is hearing on the van ride up and he's absorbing it into his system because he was so young*

when he left. We are hanging on to what we can remember.

Kain: *And he is hanging on to your memories.*

Henderson: *Yeh, exactly.*

Elliott: *It's really quite special. I told him, I said, "Maybe when we get to McCarthy or maybe if you could see those mountains a little bit. Maybe that would jog your memory just a bit." It's hard to remember I think at three years old unless you have had...*

Kain: *Something traumatic that has happened.*

Henderson: *Like me.*

Elliott: *Like me, . . . I don't really remember how old I was, but I was quite young because we were in McCarthy. And I was running with a stick - you know, in my mouth and fell down and it went down my throat.*

Kain: *I heard you say that upstairs of the awful memories.*

Elliott: *That made me remember. That's about the only thing I can remember - that and the little rock about McCarthy. And my brother being born there. And Ritz crackers.*

Kain: *And Ritz crackers, that was here. That gets to be real interesting when ... What did your children think of ...*

Elliott: *Oh, my, they loved it! And my daughter and son-in-law, we walked in [and behind the buildings.] They crawled around in the store and looked in some of those places. We went in the hospital and the very top floor and looked through some of those records. And, oh, they loved it. And my little grandson wants to come back. But my daughter said, "mama I feel some spirits here." And I said, "are they telling us to get out?" No. There are very... You know I always felt like my daddy's spirit is back here. And she said,*

"no, they're very cordial and friendly, you know, but just don't stay too long."

Kain: *Yeh.*

Henderson: *My son is going to come back up. Would love to come back up, but he loves his Harley. And think that he would like to - but I changed his mind for him, yesterday. I think after that long ride, I don't think he could make that.*

Kain: *So, your son is here?*

Henderson: *No, he's in California. And he is an outdoors guy. And he loves his roots. He was so thrilled that I was coming back.*

Kain: *Yeh, but he has not been here?*

Henderson: *No. But he is ready to come.*

Kain: *Well, you said after that long ride, yesterday. I thought that he was here with you when you took that ride and decided he didn't want to ride his Harley.*

Henderson: *That van ride was so long and I can't imagine doing that on a motorcycle. He would love to come up the Alcan Highway, but that's an awful long way around to here. So I don't know what he will do. He just might meet us here someday. But he would love it. And Jim has a son, who would just love to be with us right now.*

Elliott: *Yeh, [there's] several in the family, but we wanted to make it - this reunion the four of us. Not that they wouldn't be welcome to come, but we thought maybe this is a once in a lifetime thing.*

Kain: *A little something special that you just need to do.*

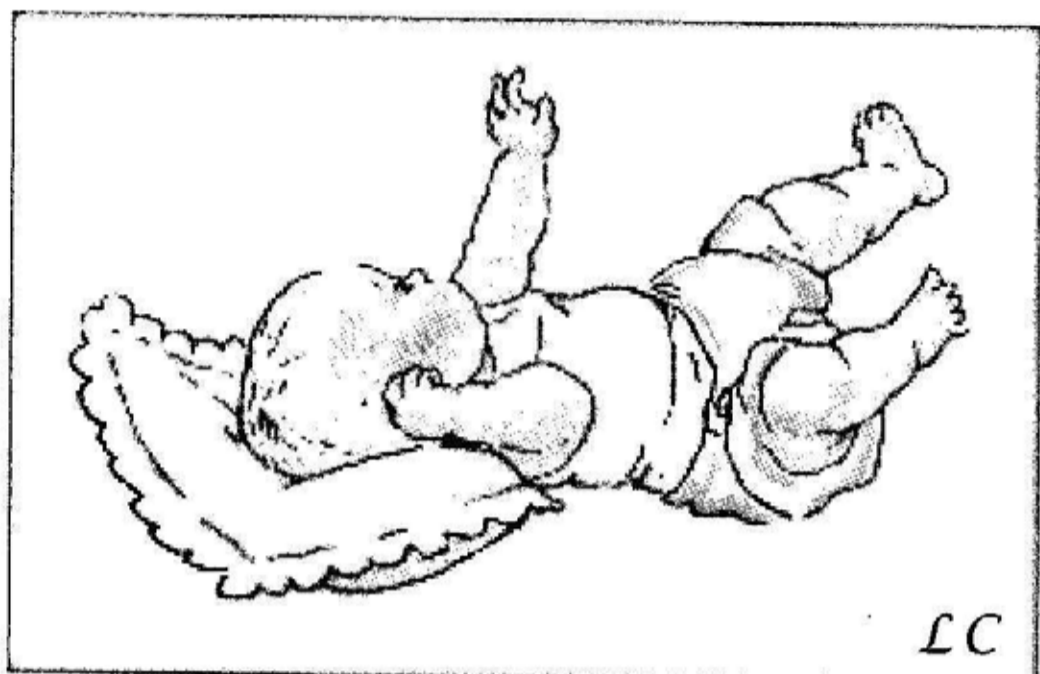
Elliott: *Yeh, especially since it's the reunion.*

Kain: *Well, after the last reunion, Inger [Jensen] ... her whole family came back - I think the following year and had their own family reunion here. And ...*

Henderson: *I think that's wonderful.*



Jeanne Moore enjoying the outdoors.



“(After brother Jim was born)...we had to stay outside all day. We had to stay outside the house. I remember at some point...I asked mother, where do babies come from? And in her description...I took it to mean a little rock. ...So I went out and got a little rock and I remember taking it in to the china cabinet, and everyday I would go by and look at that little rock to see if it had grown a little bit. And for the longest time. And I didn’t know until I got out of high school that it was any different.”

JEANNE MOORE ELLIOT

- Kain:** *Yeh, they all live here in Alaska. I think they all do. Which makes it a lot easier whereas for you people trying to do something like that from Tennessee. I'm originally from Ohio, so I know trying to get there from here is not an easy task.*
- Elliott:** *We overnighted when we were on our way last year. We overnighted in Seattle. And that made it a lovely trip. And we rented a car. And it was not - we could go a little faster than the van. I made the trip last year and didn't have any problems with it this year and would love to come back next year. And so, I probably will. I don't know if she can make that trip down the road again, but I think I could. I know I could. I don't think you would.*
- Henderson:** *Well, it got a little long. I'm anxious just to get here. And the scenery is pretty, but 11 hours of the same thing.*
- Kain:** *You get tired of it.*
- Henderson:** *And I just want to be here. I want to be in McCarthy. I can't wait to*
- get to McCarthy right now. I can't wait to see the museum.*
- Elliott:** *Do you think the people in McCarthy - we're part of history? They are there now and I feel like - you know walking into their privacy. And I just wonder how they really feel about us coming. I know they are going to welcome us with a barbecue...*
- Kain:** *Oh, they will. In '90, they were very cordial. They all came up here for story night.*
- Elliott:** *But you understand what I'm saying. We are invading their privacy, now. They live in a secluded area.*
- Kain:** *Yeh, and it is just for a weekend. If it were just - if you guys were just tourists, that would be a little different. But you are not just tourists. A part of you is here.*
- Henderson:** *But do they appreciate that?*
- Kain:** *Oh, I think so.*

- Henderson: *I think it's a different breed of people.*
- Kain: *Yeh, like I said if it were just tourists - that were, "Can we come in and see your house?" and stuff. Just like some of the people who own some of these houses here, now, if any of them are here I'm sure they [would] gladly open their homes for you to come in and look. Even if it wasn't necessarily your house, just to get...*
- Elliott: *Well, Diane [Malik?] came down last year on the top of the mountain and it took her like 45 minutes, but she had the key to the house. So, I could get in my own house, but...*
- Kain: *Is she around, now?*
- Elliott: *No, I don't think so.*
- Elliott: *She's out of town. And, but I respect and I know what they are looking for up here. And I respect them enough you don't want to infringe on them.*
- Kain: *And what is here now. What McCarthy was and what Kennecott was are not what they are now.*
- Elliott: *Not at all.*
- Kain: *Not at all. McCarthy was a thriving community. So was Kennecott. And not to say that McCarthy isn't thriving now, but it is much smaller. It's a whole different role.*
- Henderson: *Did they mind the reputation they had during the mining days?*
- Kain: *Well, that was - we had a couple of people here that grew up in McCarthy the last time. And one of them [is] Eleanor Tjosevig; Eidemiller is her last name now. She grew up in McCarthy. And she felt that, yeh, maybe McCarthy did deserve [its reputation] up to a point, but there were [also] a lot of good people there.*
- Elliott: *Oh, yeh.*
- Kain: *... unfortunately the reputation overrode [the reality] and history makes it sound like McCarthy was*

just a town of the red light district and bars.

Elliott: *I don't remember.*

Kain: *And they had that, but that wasn't all there was to it. And that was probably a very minor part on it. A much smaller part.*

Elliott: *And they blow it all out of proportion.*

Kain: *Yeh, I think so. And the kids here used to go down there to take piano lessons and...*

Henderson: *Can you tell me why people down in Anchorage - for instance - don't know anything about Kennecott as a rule?*

Kain: *Because they don't bother to come here.*

Henderson: *But shouldn't they know that this Kennecott Copper Mine put Kennecott on the map?*

Kain: *Oh, yeh. Yeh. But there are a lot of people not interested in history.*

Aren't interested in - they are interested in Alaska only for its wilderness experience, or [they] just live in Anchorage and don't go anywhere. They are not willing to take what it takes to get over here. A lot of them. Unless you have an airplane, then they might stop by.

Henderson: *The people - not in the museum, but in...*

Elliott: *The information center.*

Henderson: *Information centers. And our sister-in-law was beginning to doubt that there was a Kennecott. She thought that we were just pulling her leg because nobody, none of the waiters in any of the restaurants and none of the people...*

Elliott: *They're all young.*

Henderson: *Yeh, that's true. But Kennecott.*

Kain: *Don't know anything about it.*

Henderson: *I said you never heard of Kennecott Copper? No. I thought, oh I'm going to cry.*

Kain: *Well a lot of people don't know. They may have heard of Kennecott, but they don't realize that it's a copper mine or - you know.*

Henderson: *What [made it] the world's largest copper mine?*

Kain: *It had the highest quality. I think it may have been the largest producer at the time. I'm not sure if it [was] the largest producer, but it had the highest quality of copper ore.*

Henderson: *I love reading about [it]. But it disappointed me, other Alaskans didn't...*

Kain: *Yeh.*

Elliott: *They [local residents] probably like it that way. They keep a full house up here. That's all that they can handle. So, they don't want to bridge over the river where a car can drive. And I don't blame them. Bring in the masses.*

Kain: *Yeh. Yeh, keeps it private. Only people who really want to come, come. That's one thing that makes it good.*

Elliott: *I respect that.*

Henderson: *Oh, I do, too.*

Kain: *Well, thank you very much.*

Elliott: *It's been lovely. Thank you.*

Henderson: *I enjoyed it.*

Kain: *Let's just shut this off.*

Elliott: *It will be interesting tonight, won't it?*

Kain: *Yeh, hopefully we will, we have a bigger place now, tonight than we had the last time we did it.*

Elliott: *Where did you do it the last time - upstairs?*

Kain: *No, this is all new.*

Elliott: *Is it?*

Kain: *All these rooms are new, starting from probably the lobby area. [From] where the bathrooms [are on] this side of the lobby area. This is all new since '90. And so we had a much smaller room. The kitchen was also in there. The dining room was a small, L-shaped area. And we had that place packed with people. And it was real hard to hear and we tried to tape some of the stories, but it was like - you know you get laughter and rustling and so tonight. You could hear all of the stories and they were fun. So there should be some...*

Henderson: *You gonna run around with your microphone tonight?*

Kain: *I don't know what we are going to do. We talked about stationing three different ones around.*

