

# CATHERINE HOWARD HODGES

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

**Kain:**

*June 11, 1994. Kennecott Glacier Lodge. This is Ann Kain interviewing Catherine Howard Hodges. First of all, Catherine just some general, basic background questions. Some of the information we were wondering is where people came to Kennecott from.*

**Hodges:**

*Well, my father came here from England. He ran away from home when he was 18 and came into Canada. And worked his way across the Northern part of the United States, working on the Great Northern Railroad- I believe it was. Although it might have been Northern Pacific - I don't remember. Anyway, then he came*

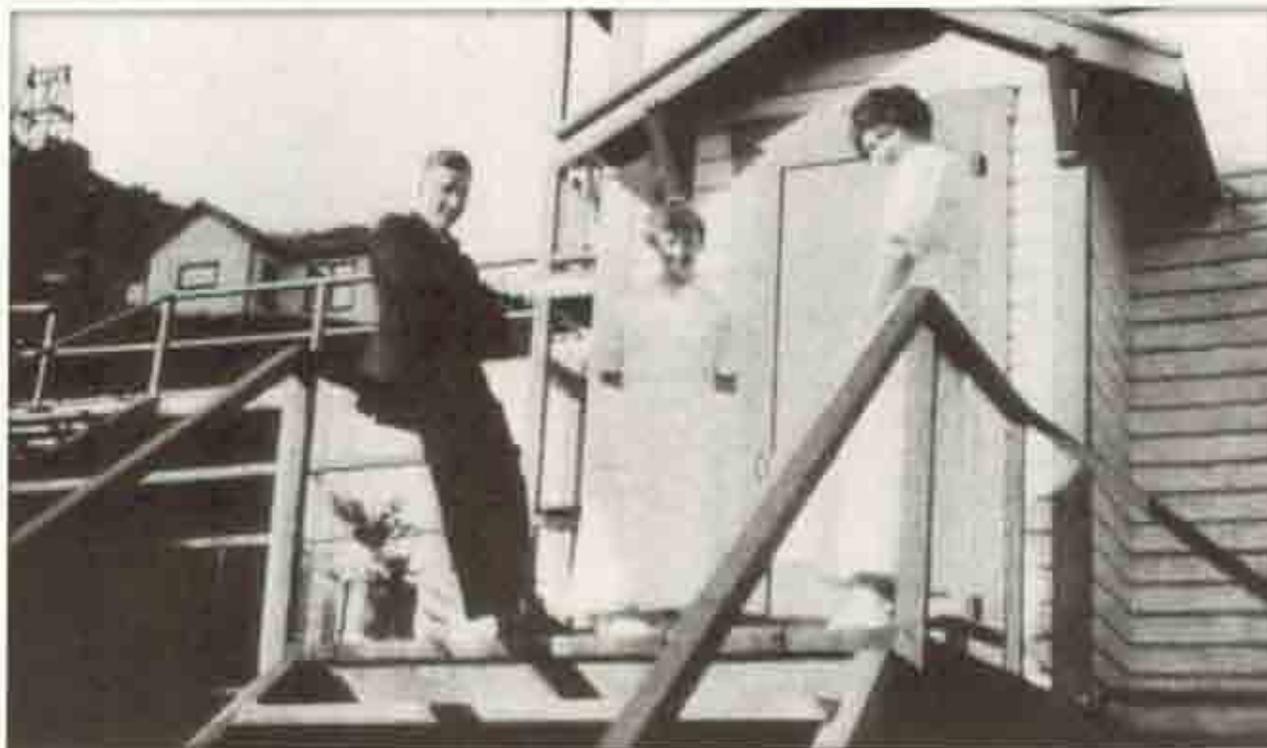
*to Seattle and thought this would be interesting. He worked on the railroad up here, coming up to Kennecott. My mother came from Boston. She was a nurse and a very adventurous soul. She came up here to work in the hospital. And she and my father were married in 1922. And I expect she shocked her family all to death because she didn't go back and marry some Harvard man or something.*

**Kain:**

*A lot of the nurses came up here. A lot of the people we interviewed last time, their parents - their mother were nurses and their dads worked on the railroad.*

**Hodges:**

*Mother did her nurses training at Roosevelt Hospital in New York and apparently one of the doctors that interned there came up here*



*Nurses and young man chat at entrance to Hospital.*

*and he wrote back and said, "This is wonderful. Come and bring your friends." So apparently there were a number of them that came from that same source.*

**Kain:** *Your parents were married here in '22.*

**Hodges:** *They were married in Seattle.*

**Kain:** *And then came back up here? And you were born here in Kennecott.*

**Hodges:** *Yes. In 1924.*

**Kain:** *And you were here until when?*

**Hodges:** *1937.*

**Kain:** *You were here through all your elementary years and...*

**Hodges:** *Yes. I graduated from 8th grade and the year I graduated there were eight students in the whole school.*

**Kain:** *What did your father do?*

**Hodges:** *My father was the yard foreman. Which meant he had charge of clearing snow from the roads and keeping maintenance on buildings and pipes. Well, some of the coverings of some pipes.*

**Kain:** *The steam pipes. So he worked on the railroad and then got here and when he finished the railroad, then started working as a yardman.*

**Hodges:** *Well, that's what he ended up as I imagine, there is a space of time in between there, but he helped to build the town. And he had a little platform tent building, just south where the lodge is now up on the hill.*

**Kain:** *So did he work with Chris Jensen? The camp carpenter.*

**Hodges:** *Probably, I'm sure he must have.*

**Kain:** *O.K. So when they came up here, they were planning to stay.*

**Hodges:** *Yes. He liked it.*

**Kain:** *And did you have any brothers and sisters?*

- Hodges: *No.*
- Kain: *Just you?*
- Hodges: *Just me. I had next door neighbors that did just as well. We were just talking to Frank Morris. He was one of the three that lived next door to me. I say he was the instigator and he said I was the one that got everyone in trouble. So I don't know.*
- Kain: *You said your dad stayed on here as a watchman after the mine closed. And you and your mother left?*
- Hodges: *We went back to Massachusetts. Mother thought I was far too much of a tomboy and I needed a little culture and a little calming down. So we went back to Massachusetts and I went to high school at the Marblehead Massachusetts High School.*
- Kain: *And did you go on to some of the business school or...*
- Hodges: *I went to a medical secretarial school in Boston. Mother wanted me to be a nurse like she was. I said I just can't do it. I don't have that feeling. I can't take care of people. She insisted on something medical. So I said alright, we will try medical secretarial. I had a absolutely fantastic time that year, but I didn't learn very much as far as school was concerned. But in the mean time, my father had been transferred to Waterbury, Connecticut to work at the Chase Brass and Copper Company. Which was a subsidiary of Kennecott [Copper Corporation.]*
- Kain: *So your father stayed in mining when he left here?*
- Hodges: *No. This was a brass manufacturing place.*
- Kain: *Oh, I see.*
- Hodges: *But Mr. Stannard, who was the President of Kennecott Copper Corporation, was a friend of my father's. And he found a spot for him in Chase Brass and Copper.*

**Kain:** *And your mother when you went outside did she continue with her nursing, then.*

**Hodges:** *No.*

**Hodges:** *Well, she - wait a minute - she did for a while after my father died, but not until then. She did private duty nursing for a while.*

**Kain:** *And what kind of profession did you take up?*

**Hodges:** *A little of this and a little of that. A little of something else. After the school in Boston, I went to Waterbury, 'cause mother said, "We miss you. Please, come home." And I hated Waterbury. Absolutely hated it. I still do. And so, well I went to New York City and went to a laboratory technique [school], which was medical, but when I got out of that I couldn't find a job. So mother says, "we miss you come home." Went back to Waterbury again for a while. But in the meantime, I decided what I wanted to do. I joined the Marine Corps. And so on my 20th*

*birthday, I went down to the post office and signed up. Of course, mother and dad had to give me written permission.*

**Kain:** *This was 1944?*

**Hodges:** *Yes, because I wasn't yet 21. But they gave that willingly enough. So, I was in the service until 1945. I never got beyond private. So, when they started getting rid of the people that's where they started.*

**Kain:** *After you left here, did you keep in touch with some of the people, the kids?*

**Hodges:** *I kept in touch with Lyle Morris. Actually she was the only one and the last five or six years, I have been writing to Jean McGavock Lamb. But I hadn't until then. But I kept in touch with one of our teachers, Bertha Krantz, was her name when she was here. She married a man from here.*

**Kain:** *Bertha Kranse. K-r-a-n-s-e.*

**Hodges:** *K-r-a-n-t-z.*

- Kain: *t-z. O.K.*
- Hodges: *And she married Pete Ramer from up here.*
- Kain: *I remember a Mildred Reis mentioning him.*
- Hodges: *I don't know where they went. Oh, wait a minute. They went to Kodiak, I believe, when they left here. I think. But after Pete died she went back to Arizona, where she had come from. And I wrote to her there. And I visited her there once about twenty-five years ago. And I kept in touch with Nell McCann in Fairbanks.*
- Kain: *She was a school teacher, right?*
- Hodges: *No. She was the secretary.*
- Kain: *Oh, the secretary, right. O.K. and she's still there.*
- Hodges: *Yes. She's 91.*
- Kain: *Talk about your experiences here ... to kind of give us an idea of what it was like living here. Some*
- of the categories we decided to narrow down were things like food and housing and other purchases. Do you recall the food? Did you grow your own food?*
- Hodges: *Some.*
- Kain: *You had a garden?*
- Hodges: *Actually the only thing I remember my father grew strawberries. I think he had lettuce. And he had a garden down the track, which he probably planted potatoes in. There must have been other things, but nothing really sticks in my mind particularly.*
- Kain: *What about other fresh fruit, other than strawberries. Where did you obtain that?*
- Hodges: *Well, if they had any in the store that's where we got them.*
- Kain: *And meat, how about meat?*
- Hodges: *Meat, my father was not a hunter. So whatever we had came from the butcher shop.*

**Kain:** *Yes, the meat house down here. He didn't hunt at all?*

**Hodges:** *No.*

**Kain:** *I know there are numerous of kids whose fathers did go out and get moose.*

**Hodges:** *But he wasn't a hunter. He didn't like to hunt.*

**Kain:** *And where did you live when you were here?*

**Hodges:** *Across from the power plant. There were a row of houses extending beyond and then there was another row up above near the side of the tracks.*

**Kain:** *So you lived up there.*

**Hodges:** *Well, when I was first born we lived at the very last house on the row by the - down by the power plant, beyond the power plant.*

**Kain:** *Down below?*

**Hodges:** *By the Erie trail, but then we moved up and we were in the second house. The one that's all fixed up.*

**Kain:** *The one that Rich Kirkwood fixed up.*

**Hodges:** *We lived in that one.*

**Kain:** *Did you go in there, today, by chance?*

**Hodges:** *I didn't realize that it was open.*

**Kain:** *I think - I thought I saw Jody Kirkwood go up there. I don't know if she went in or...*

**Hodges:** *They wanted me to go up the path. And I said I can't make that.*

**Kain:** *That's kind of a steep...*

**Hodges:** *They said they would help me up and I said, Well probably I can make it up, but I don't think I can get down again. I would have to sit down and slide.*

**Kain:** *Did you have steam heat in there or wood stove?*

- Hodges: *Oh, yes.*
- Kain: *You had steam heat in there.*
- Hodges: *We had steam heat and we had - in fact - we were better off as far as steam heat and electricity and all that then where my husband was. He lived in Connecticut and they didn't get electricity until 1935.*
- Kain: *That's something that really struck me during the last reunion that a lot of people think that living in this rugged wilderness, you don't have anything, but Kennecott back then was-*
- Hodges: *Had everything.*
- Kain: *More so than it does now. And more so than a lot of places in the Lower 48. So you had electricity, you had running water and steam heat.*
- Hodges: *Steam heat. And hot water. We had a boiler in each bathroom. There in the house somewhere.*
- Kain: *You had two bedrooms. Your mom and dad had a room and you had one.*
- Hodges: *There was a dining room and a living room and a pretty good size kitchen. A wood shed and there was a hallway. At the end of it was quite large and somebody, whether it was my father or someone previously to him, had built in a whole set of shelves and mother had sewing material in there. It was like a linen closet type.*
- Kain: *That was going to be one of my next questions. We've noticed on some of the upper houses, up on what they call Silk Stocking Row, now. They have under the steps, the steps have drawers in them. And Inger said that was one of her father's innovations for more storage. And the have built-in hutches in the dining room and so forth. I was just wondering what kind of improvements, if any, you made on your house.*
- Hodges: *Well, as I say, I don't know if my father put that in or if it was there before. I don't know.*

**Kain:** *And what kind of stove did you have to cook on?*

**Hodges:** *Wood stove.*

**Kain:** *You cooked on a wood stove. And did you cook differently in different seasons. I mean in the summertime, when it was hot did you still fire up the wood stove or did you maybe cook something outside?*

**Hodges:** *We didn't cook outside. I imagine she must have to heat up the stove. I guess.*

**Kain:** *And what about the things from the company store. What did you buy?*

**Hodges:** *Well, let me see - all kind of can goods. There was overalls and socks and heavy shoes. Down on this side, were compacts and maybe a little bit of jewelry. Nothing very fancy, but maybe a little bit. Face powder. That sort of thing. Candy and stuff was over on this side of the entrance doors.*

**Kain:** *You bought a lot of your staples as far as food goes...*

**Hodges:** *There were yard goods like calico and that sort of thing.*

**Kain:** *Did your mother sew?*

**Hodges:** *Yes.*

**Kain:** *You said she had that closet with material in it. Did she make most of your clothing?*

**Hodges:** *Quite a bit of it. She did a lot of beautiful...*

**Kain:** *Embroidery.*



- Hodges: *Smocking. She did a lot of smocking. It was very pretty.*
- Kain: *Did you also order clothes from like Sears. And so a lot of things came from mail order?*
- Hodges: *Oh, yes! And every year my grandmother would send us a box from S.S. Pierce and Co. which was fancy foods. Apricot wafers and Lord, can't think of all the things. But all sorts of fancy foods. She'd send a box up to us for Thanksgiving and I guess she probably bought it and mail it in September or sometime.*
- Kain: *Yes, in order to get here in time for Christmas- Thanksgiving, I mean. Did your father's position as the yard foreman have anything to do with where he lived?*
- Hodges: *No, I don't think so. I think the houses were for families. If the men that worked here had families here, why I assume they had one of the houses. I think most of them didn't have families, here anyway.*

- Kain: *So they stayed in the bunk houses? But you don't feel that there is any hierarchy as to where your house was located as to what the position was in the community?*
- Hodges: *I don't think so. We never felt that way anyway.*
- Kain: *O.K. What about your furniture? Did you bring it in or was it furnished?*
- Hodges: *Well, it was mostly homemade and yes we had an old oak desk that, well maybe some of it came from the catalogs. I don't know. But there was a lamp that was very obviously, homemade. It had a just a cross piece on the bottom and the pole and then the fancy silk shade with a fringe around it. I imagine there was other stuff like that. I had an iron bed. Mother and daddy had a, probably had an iron bed too. I don't remember. And the living room was furnished with a glass fronted bookcase. Piece of furniture, not built-in. And a Morris chair and a rocking chair. Oh, there was a built-in*



*From left to right: Bruce Morris, Marvin Whipple, Mary Ellen Duggan, Deb Vickery, John Letendre, and Frank Morris (bottom left). Yvonne Konnerup's dog "Lassie" is fitted for a hat.*



*“(The Morrises) lived right next door, we were a fearsome foursome....I used to sneak out my bedroom window, ‘cause my bedroom window faced their house. And I’d sneak out my window and we’d go up to the tennis court....I don’t know how we all lived through all the things we did.”*

CATHERINE HOWARD HODGES

corner cupboard. That's right. And a sofa bed for a couch. And for a while anyway we had a piano. I don't remember that we had it the whole time, but we did have a piano for a while.

**Kain:** *And when you left — your dad stayed here as the watchman. So did most of the furniture and everything stayed here with him?*

**Hodges:** *Everything stayed. We took very little out.*

**Kain:** *Just personal clothing?*

**Hodges:** *Yes.*

**Kain:** *And personal mementos?*

**Hodges:** *Mother took some of her linen, her silver, and stuff like that. But even dishes - there were only a few things that she took with her. Gorgeous cut glass bowl. It was heavy as lead, but she managed to take that along. And that's really about all.*

**Kain:** *Where did your dad stay after you left?*

**Hodges:** *He lived in one of the two little houses that was down here.*

**Kain:** *Right down toward the end of the lodge?*

**Hodges:** *Yes, the ones that have been moved.*

**Kain:** *Down on the road? And what kind of heat did they...*

**Hodges:** *He lived in one [and Paul Wilhelm and his wife were in the other]. He was one of the men that stayed.*

**Kain:** *Obviously they didn't maintain the steam heat and so forth.*

**Hodges:** *Wood stoves.*

**Kain:** *Wood stoves? And no power, probably?*

**Hodges:** *No.*

**Kain:** *And he stayed for two years?*

Hodges: *Three years. And I have letters in here from him to me. That tell how some of the time was passed. And some of the things that happened and how lonesome it was up here.*

Kain: *Like I've said earlier, I think Linda Cook will be real interested in maybe photographing those for archival purposes or research purposes for us.*

Hodges: *I also got scolded long distance for my writing and my spelling.*

Kain: *He graded your letters and sent them back.*

Hodges: *Sort of.*

Kain: *Now we know that a lot of the single men lived in the bunkhouses. What about single women?*

Hodges: *They lived in the staff house.*

Kain: *In the staff house.*

Hodges: *There weren't too many of those. The nurses, secretaries, and the school teachers.*

Kain: *Secretaries and the teachers.*

Hodges: *And that was about it.*

Kain: *So there might be what, 5, 7, 10?*

Hodges: *Well, it was probably only one teacher. Well maybe early on there were two. I don't know. But-and one secretary for all I know. And maybe three or four nurses. Staff house had three floors. The first-well, there was a basement. I don't know what that was. The first floor had a kitchen and a large meeting room and a room for VIP guests. Bedroom and bath. Then the first- the floor above that was for women and the top floor was for men.*

Kain: *So they segregated the men and the women and the bottom floor was like a common area. A social area or whatever. Speaking of nurses, how were injuries handled? Did you go home and get doctored by your mom, of course she was a nurse? So you may as well have.*

**Hodges:** *Well, I was going to say it would depend on how serious it was. I guess. Lyle Morris and I had our tonsils out at the same time, but that was a walk-in and have it done deal. But we were there in the hospital for a week. And I think we drove them crazy because we were running up and down the halls. And we weren't any sicker than we are now. But I do remember having my appendix out and they came up to our house with a stretcher and carried me down to the hospital.*

**Kain:** *I think Jim McGavock had a similar...*

**Hodges:** *Did he?*

**Kain:** *Yes, Actually I think it was his tonsils.*

**Hodges:** *Then I got my finger hurt playing with Jim McGavock on a piece of machinery which we were told to stay off of. And I got my fingers caught. These two fingers in a cog wheel. I had on heavy deer skin mittens and it caught me in the mitten and...*

**Kain:** *And pulled it in.*

**Hodges:** *Pulled it right in.*

**Kain:** *Is that the result of the.*

**Hodges:** *That's the result of it.*

**Kain:** *My goodness.*

**Hodges:** *And never changed. It's come off several times, it's gotten infected down in here. And the doctor pulled it off once. It grows back exactly the same way.*

**Kain:** *Long time, you think it would.*

**Hodges:** *I've been waiting quite a while to see Jim McGavock.*

**Kain:** *See what you (Jim) did to my finger? It's all your fault! Do you remember any mine — injuries in the mine?*

**Hodges:** *No, not clearly. I'm sure they happened and I'm sure I heard about it, but they don't stand out in my mind. Not a particularly bad one. I do remember my mother*

telling about some woman riding in a dog sled. And they stopped to take pictures and I don't know what she did. She did something and the dogs turned on her. And landed on top of her and chewed her to pieces. Mother said when she got to the hospital, the only clothes she had on were her boots - her lace up boots. And she was badly hurt, but I guess she survived. But it could be dangerous.

**Kain:** *What about dental care? Was there any dental care, here?*

**Hodges:** *Dentist came up from Cordova-I think about-twice a year. If there was anything serious happened otherwise, you had to go to him.*

**Kain:** *If you had an abscessed tooth that you couldn't stand the pain you had to go to Cordova and have it taken care of.*

**Hodges:** *Or have somebody pull it.*

**Kain:** *Yes. Which probably happened.*

**Hodges:** *I'm sure it did.*

**Kain:** *What about an optometrist or eye exams?*

**Hodges:** *I don't know if one was in Cordova or not. For anything really serious-I guess you had to go all the way to Seattle. Probably.*

**Kain:** *Did you have to pay for medical assistance here?*

**Hodges:** *No.*

**Kain:** *So the company picked it up? It was free.*

**Hodges:** *It was the company hospital.*

**Kain:** *And what about the dentist when he did come? Was that also free?*

**Hodges:** *I don't know.*

**Kain:** *That's one of those things I was just wondering about. Was there a doctor in McCarthy?*

**Hodges:** *I don't think so because people came up here.*

**Kain:** *To use the hospital and the medical services here. And did they have to pay?*

**Hodges:** *I expect so. I don't know. I would imagine.*

**Kain:** *Yes, you would think so. Do you remember any kind of epidemics?*

**Hodges:** *Apparently there was a flu epidemic. It must have been 1918, when it was all over the country. Because I have a picture that my father took of a corral. And he said this was where anyone who was coming to Kennecott during the epidemic- the flu epidemic, I think- had to stay there for four or five days before they could come into the camp. And he said they only had one case in camp.*

**Kain:** *We have heard about that during the last reunion and they called it the detention center. Where they would detain people before they came into camp, so it wouldn't sweep through the camp. Another thing that I've found really interesting last time around during*

*1990- which was something we would had never thought about. But apparently most of the kids didn't get childhood diseases.*

**Hodges:** *Not very many.*

**Kain:** *Did you get it later?*

**Hodges:** *I got chicken pox during my Christmas vacation one year in high school.*

**Kain:** *That was after you left here?*

**Hodges:** *Yes. I got the measles. I got the measles the year we spent in Boston in grammar school. I got measles that year. Chicken pox. I get the mumps when my youngest daughter got them.*

**Kain:** *So you were just like most of the other kids, you got them as an adult. It's a rough time to get them, too. You never worked here. Just here as a child. Did your mom ever nurse after she married your dad? Here in Kennecott.*

Hodges: *I think on an emergency basis. If they needed someone extra, but it wasn't anything regular.*

Kain: *What did she do as far as - other than housewife?*

Hodges: *Well, what did any women do in those days? Wash, clean.*

Kain: *Yeh, but I mean, house activities- were there other things that she could have been involved in the community?*

Hodges: *Well, we had a book club. Now I don't know. Possibly that had some specific members or was everyone a member? I don't know. But they had a nice, little library. A book club they called it. And she was quite a hostess. She liked to give parties and things and go places. My father would have card games every now and then. They played a game here that I and no one else has ever heard of called "Pan". And I haven't been able to find out anything about it.*

Kain: *How it was played?*

Hodges: *No one has ever heard of it.*

Kain: *I don't remember that one coming up in 1990, but there was another card game that I- that someone mentioned. It wasn't "Pan", but it was something else. Now I can't remember right off what it was. But it was something that I've never heard of. Yes. You might want to canvas some of the kids that are here and see if any of them remember. Did your dad have a lot of employees under him?*

Hodges: *Oh yes. Quite a few. Oh it must have been several dozen. I have a book here that they wrote the men's names in and how many hours they worked.*

Kain: *Oh, that will be interesting.*

Hodges: *Where is it? There were quite a few people.*

Kain: *So, it his log book basically. Linda Cook will probably be interested in seeing that upstairs, too. Do you remember any strikes or anything*

*like that? How labor management relations?*

**Hodges:** *Not strikes here, but steam ship strikes. So we couldn't get the food in or packages or anything.*

**Kain:** *So it would cripple what was going on and you probably couldn't get ore out either. I mean you can ship it down to Cordova, but no further.*

**Hodges:** *I can remember two different times that happened, I couldn't tell what year they were, but I remember that happening twice.*

**Kain:** *But you don't remember any labor problems, here? But, of course, you were a child.*

**Hodges:** *There may have been, but they didn't amount to a whole lot. I guess.*

**Kain:** *You mentioned earlier that there were eight kids, when you were last in school here. Was that pretty much the norm? Or was that dwindling?*

**Hodges:** *That was dwindling, because when I first started there were two rooms in the school. The first four grades were in one room. The other four in the other one. But I think probably there were twenty, twenty-five or even more in the beginning, because they came from ...*

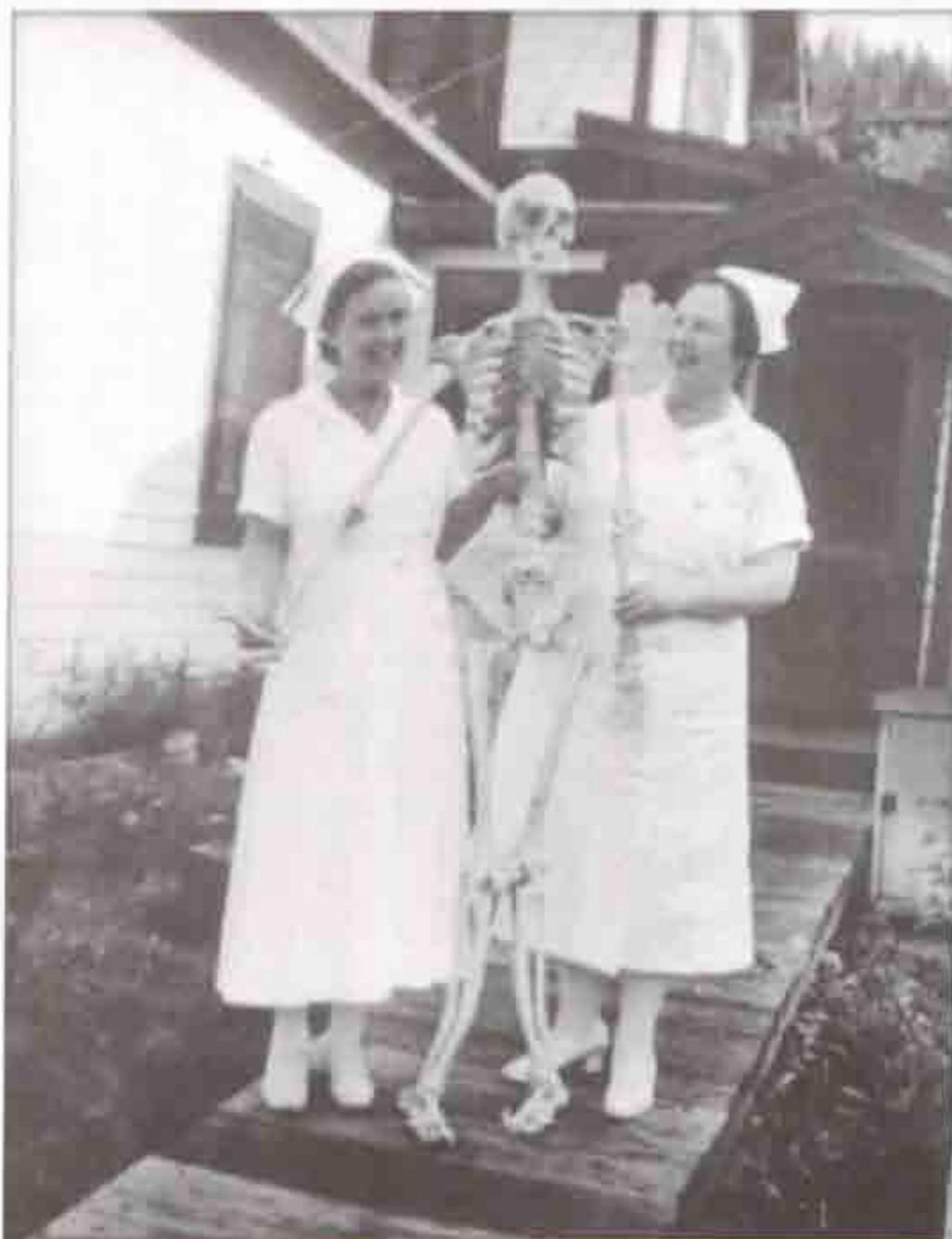
**Kain:** *McCarthy.*

**Hodges:** *McCarthy, also. And your light's blinking.*

**Kain:** *Well maybe I'll have to stop here for a second and flip the tape over. And then we will start in again.*

TAPE #2  
SIDE #2

**Kain:** *Well, if you run across it Linda would be interested in seeing it. Well, I would be interested in seeing it, too actually. O.K. so if you had two rooms in the school, so you probably had two teachers most of the time?*



*Oscar the skeleton poses with Ethel Lecount(?) and unknown nurse.*

Hodges: *Well, yes.*

Kain: *And did Kennecott employ them?*

Hodges: *Yes.*

Kain: *And did they - where did they live?*

Hodges: *They probably lived in the staff house because they didn't encourage married teachers in those days.*

Kain: *Right.*

Hodges: *If you got married you left.*

Kain: *You left. You weren't teaching... Yes, my grandmother was a teacher back then, so I know. And was attendance mandatory?*

Hodges: *Why yes. Sure.*

Kain: *But you guys all liked it anyway, right?*

Hodges: *Well as much as anybody liked school.*

Kain: *What are some of your memories of school?*

Hodges: *Well, in the eighth grade, at least, I sat in the back row and behind me was the bookcase full of books. I think I read more Zane Grey books that year than I did school books, probably.*

Kain: *Did you read them in class?*

Hodges: *I don't remember. Well from the looks of my grades I may have.*

Kain: *And what did you do during recess?*

Hodges: *Oh, there were swings outside. There was a teeter totter. There were hanging bars. There was a merry-go-round type of thing. I don't know what the name of it was, but it had ball bearings on the top and four like rope ladders with [hand] holds in them.*

Kain: *This isn't the Maypole?*

Hodges: *Maypole. Well, yes, alright.*

Kain: *There's quite a few pictures of the kids on the Maypoles.*

- Hodges: *Well, O.K. that's it then.*
- Kain: *Did you get involved in the winter activities, such as playing hockey and so forth?*
- Hodges: *No. I learned to skate, but I never played hockey.*
- Kain: *You didn't play hockey. Sledding?*
- Hodges: *Oh, yes. Yes. Yes. Plenty of that. My father-as I said- was yard foreman and he had a truck that he used to drive up to the mill, if it needed something or whatever. And the kids use to start at the top of the mill and slide down that road and around here and around that sharp corner and down to the store and across the tracks and out on to the field.*
- Kain: *That would be quite a sled run.*
- Hodges: *It was fantastic. But my father knew, he went out of his mind, because he never dared start the truck up the hill. If he didn't know where the kids were.*
- Kain: *Right. Right. But they'd start [up at] the mill and go pass the-what?-seven houses up here. And make that sharp curve and. Wow, that is quite a run.*
- Hodges: *Yep! Oh no, they didn't go back by those houses.*
- Kain: *O.K. they came down the road.*
- Hodges: *They came down the road where the piece of machinery is up there and in the brush right now, but it came down there.*
- Kain: *But still that's quite a run.*
- Hodges: *Well, we probably only did it twice at a time, because you had to turn around and walk all the way back up.*
- Kain: *Yes and that's a long haul.*
- Hodges: *Oh what a ride. Occasionally you'd get going so fast that you'd almost miss that sharp curve there. And it was usually banked, but quite often you'd go up on the bank.*



*Maypole.*

- Kain:** *The top edge of the bank? A few kids would have a spill on that on occasion.*
- Hodges:** *I don't know how we all lived through all the things we did. Honestly. Because the things we did. If I would have caught any of my kids doing anything like this I'd kill 'em.*
- Kain:** *They better not hear this interview then.*
- Hodges:** *Well they've heard all of this.*
- Kain:** *Now they can.*
- Hodges:** *I don't care what they do now. They're old enough.*
- Kain:** *In your family, you said there were just your mother and your father and you. So did you help your mother with the housework and your father with wood cutting chores or...?*
- Hodges:** *Not very much. I guess I helped do the dishes some. I may have helped mother in the kitchen*
- cooking, but I never cared a lot for cooking. I still don't. And...*
- Kain:** *So did you tend to do your outside chores?*
- Hodges:** *I like to shovel, I love to shovel snow. I still like to. Not suppose to, but I still like to. And, I don't know. I don't think I did very much other than that. I had to keep my own room clean.*
- Kain:** *And wash dishes. What about doing laundry?*
- Hodges:** *Well mother had a washing machine. It was an old round Savage and you'd hook it up to the sink, but it had a tendency to walk across the floor.*
- Kain:** *And then you'd hang the clothes out to dry? What did you do in the wintertime?*
- Hodges:** *Well we had a wood shed and I expect they were hung up there. And we had a rack, probably in the bathroom and hung small things.*

**Kain:** *They would dry in the heat in the house? What about-you said your dad had a little bit of a garden, what about any livestock?*

**Hodges:** *No. He didn't have any.*

**Kain:** *No chickens? No...*

**Hodges:** *No. No.*

**Kain:** *How about pets? Dogs, cats.*

**Hodges:** *We had cats. We never had any dogs. I don't know why. We had a canary that came out of the mine.*

**Kain:** *Fortunately he lived long enough to come out of the mine.*

**Hodges:** *We had him for quite a while. That's about all the pets we had. We had several different cats, at different times, but we never had a dog.*

**Kain:** *Do you - I was thinking - I noticed here on my notes. We were wondering about religious services? Were there any religious services offered?*

**Hodges:** *Not on a permanent basis from the - I think it was about once a month. Somebody would come up from Cordova. At one time it would be an Episcopal minister and some other time it would be a Baptist and another time it would be a Presbyterian.*

**Kain:** *Yes, try to cover all of the denominations and a rotating basis.*

**Hodges:** *It was always somebody different. As far as I can remember, at least in my era anyway- there were only one or two Catholic families. So that was rather seldom, that he might get here once to every other place.*

**Kain:** *The rest of them, it was mainly Protestant. I see. Where did they...*

**Hodges:** *I don't know what the Japanese did. If they had their own religion, I had no idea whether they got together between themselves or what.*

**Kain:** *And where were these services held?*

Hodges: *I was gonna say in the schoolhouse, but that doesn't sound big enough.*

Kain: *Maybe the recreation hall?*

Hodges: *Maybe. We had Sunday School in the schoolhouse. I guess the parents, various parents, taught that.*

Kain: *Speaking of religious services, do you remember any funerals here?*

Hodges: *No.*

Kain: *No. So you don't know what they did as far as a funeral service?*

Hodges: *I know there were some, but I don't know what they did.*

Kain: *How about traveling? Did you travel at all when you were here?*

Hodges: *No. I assume my father must have had vacations, but if we went anywhere it was only Cordova, perhaps.*

Kain: *Did you ever go to Long Lake or ...?*

Hodges: *Yes. Sometimes. I used to go with*

*the Morris family out to a lake. It wasn't Long Lake. It was out on the other side of McCarthy.*

Kain: *Baultoff Lake?*

Hodges: *Yes. That's right.*

Kain: *A lot of the kids mentioned going out there, fishing and picnicking and. And you didn't have a car.*

Hodges: *No.*

Kain: *There were a couple of cars in town, here.*

Hodges: *Yes. Jack Morris had one.*

Kain: *That's how you got to Baultoff Lake.*

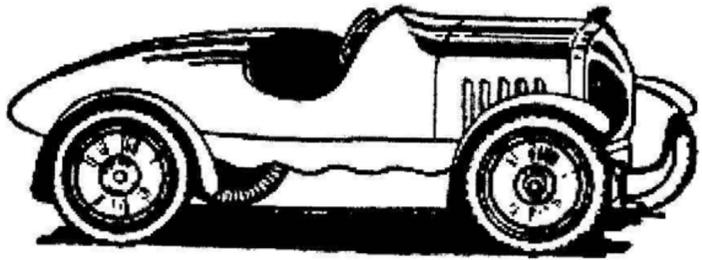
Hodges: *He'd put the four kids in the back and when we started somebody would be sitting on somebody else's lap. And by the time you bounced yourself out there, everybody would be sitting on the seat.*

Kain: *All squished together. Yes. I find it*



*A little pixie takes a car ride.*

## Sport Bodies



*“Jack Morris had one (of the) couple of cars in town... He’d put the four kids in the back and when we started somebody would be sitting on somebody else’s lap. And by the time you bounced yourself out there (to Baultoff Lake), everybody would be sitting on the seat... (All squished together).”*

MARY O’NEILL HUCKINS

*really interesting that you could get around this area a lot more then, than you can now, because there are no bridges now and whatnot. So you did a lot of things with the Morrises?*

**Hodges:** *Yes. They lived right next door, we were a fearsome foursome.*

**Kain:** *Fearsome foursome. O.K. Did your family usually go on picnics or were you usually with the Morrises in doing those things?*

**Hodges:** *Well we went on some, but not very many. I don't know if mother wasn't the picnic type or what. We'd go on community picnics sometimes, but I don't remember more than once or twice just with us going.*

**Kain:** *But you tagged along with the Morrises.*

**Hodges:** *I used to sneak out my bedroom window, 'cause my bedroom window faced their house. And I'd sneak out my window and we'd go up to the tennis court.*

**Kain:** *Did you play tennis?*

**Hodges:** *I played at it.*

**Kain:** *Yes. I tried that last year with my daughter. I have never really been able to play it. Boy that's a challenge. We just about ran each other ragged. She couldn't play either. Well speaking of going with the Morrises and family picnics and so forth. What other social activities do you remember with families and otherwise?*

**Hodges:** *Well, there would always be a Christmas play that the children put on or Christmas program. I should say. It wasn't always a play. And they'd have a party at Christmastime where some of the men - the older men that probably had families - outside somewhere, who missed their children and their families would buy toys for the kids.*

**Kain:** *So a lot of the - well, not single, but the men here with no families were also participating. What about men from the mine? Did they come down for stuff like that?*

**Hodges:** *Yes. Sometimes.*

**Kain:** *What other kind of activities other than the Christmas pageant or program?*

**Hodges:** *Usually had a 4th of July picnic and we'd go to McCarthy for the 4th of July baseball game.*

**Kain:** *How did you get to McCarthy? Did you walk?*

**Hodges:** *Oh, walk or go in the car or there was a little speeder car out here too. That was one of these things that you worked by hand or - well I don't remember, but...*

**Kain:** *It held about six people or something like that?*

**Hodges:** *Probably.*

**Kain:** *I remember seeing pictures of it. Did you go any farther than McCarthy on the speeder? A lot of people went to Chitina and so forth.*

**Hodges:** *No. Not on the speeder.*

**Kain:** *So you never went outside?*

**Hodges:** *No.*

**Kain:** *Just here around here.*

**Hodges:** *In fact I had never been to Anchorage until 20 years ago.*

**Kain:** *Oh, really. You mentioned that your dad would have people over - men over to play cards. Did women get together for...?*

**Hodges:** *Yes. They had bridge games.*

**Kain:** *Bridge games.*

**Hodges:** *And socials. I don't know. Maybe they had sewing circles. I don't remember that mother was in one of those, but then again she might have been.*

**Kain:** *So there were some women activities and men activities and then family activities together and...*

**Hodges:** *They had dances down here and they had costume parties and things like that.*

**Kain:** *Plenty of things to keep everybody*

*busy?*

Hodges: *Oh, yes.*

Kain: *And what about movies?*

Hodges: *They had movies for a while. That was only a once in a while thing. I remember seeing a Charlie Chaplin movie down here. The one where he cooked his boot tops and ate them.*

Kain: *And did men from the mines come down to go to the movie or...?*

Hodges: *Not often. It was quite, they could come down during the summertime by walking, but in the winter I doubt very much if they ever came down. I don't know.*

Kain: *So usually all the activities involved just the people at the lower camp?*

Hodges: *In the lower camp. Yes. For the main part.*

Kain: *Something that also came up at 1990 reunion was that at the theater the single men sat on one*

*side and the families sat on another.*

Hodges: *Yes, you're right. I've forgotten that.*

Kain: *Yes, we thought it was- the thing being that you came up here from the lower 48 and just because you're living in a wilderness, the social mores were still observed very strongly. Well, I guess we have talked about recreation, sports, and so forth, and the pageants and the dances. Apparently, you enjoyed your time here.*

Hodges: *Oh, definitely. Yes. I think even while your living it most people wouldn't think of it- you know this is life.*

Kain: *Yes. This is just where I live. Yes.*

Hodges: *Later you think oh, how wonderful it was. But I think I enjoyed it even then.*

Kain: *And where do you live now?*

Hodges: *Connecticut.*

**Kain:** *The same ol' place?*

**Hodges:** *Just outside of Waterbury. I still hate Waterbury.*

**Kain:** *Well, at least you're outside of it. And you've lived there on and off pretty much since leaving here?*

**Hodges:** *Yes.*

**Kain:** *Well, Catherine I appreciate your time and your information.*