

An Anchorage History

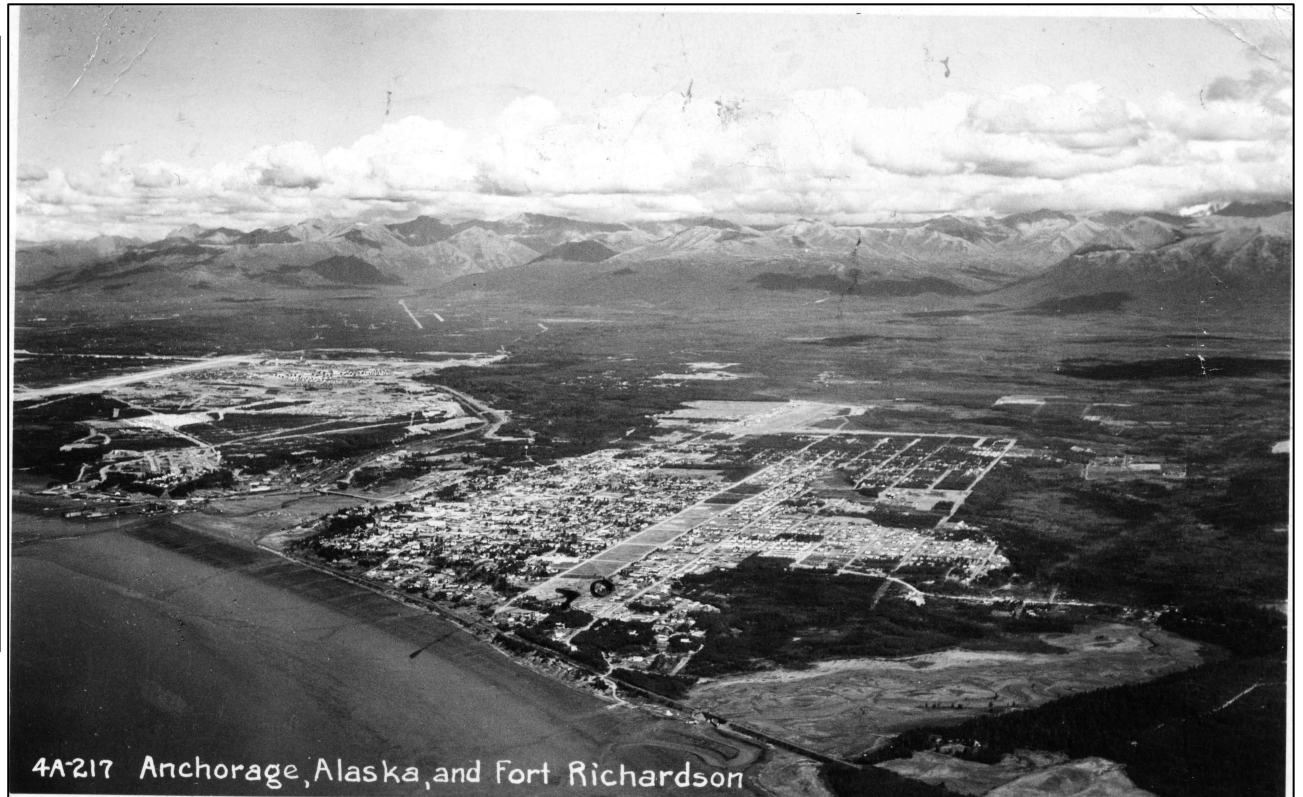
Aerial Photo May 1950

Early years of Rogers Park and
Traversie Sub-divisions

John Fournelle
UW-Madison Dept
of Geoscience

Harold Fournelle 1950

In 1950, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service as a commissioned officer and had two job possibilities: Cincinnati Ohio or Anchorage Alaska. He drove his 1950 Ford up the Alcan Highway, arriving Anchorage August 11. He was 41 years old.



“There certainly are a lot of liquor stores here”

Rogers Park 1950



August 23, 1950



September 3, 1950



September 30, 1950

Galewood : 104 ... then 2511 ... then 2503 ... today 2513

Aug 24.

My dear Louise –

One of the fellows here told me about a building constructor who was building new homes. I went over there then and made an inquiry. They took me out to a new addition being built up. It's known as Rogers Park and apparently was started about a year ago. The homes out there now are very nice. They showed me 2 houses they have left. They are well under way in construction and are scheduled to be completed by Oct 1. The entire building project in Rogers Park is financed through the Alaska Housing Authority.

He acquired a \$14,000 25-year mortgage.

Rogers Park in the 1950s



John and Joe December 1950



January 1954: Flooding Back Yard



Summer 1951
Constructing Oil Shed



Summer 1952



Meter Readers January 1956

Rogers Park 1951 ... 2009

- I take a working vacation in summer 2009, house sitting on Cottonwood
- My brother asks me to try to find info about “plane crash in Rogers Park in 1951” (he scanned and emailed me the clipping our mother kept)

I search and find it at the Anchorage Public Library...



ALMANAC
Anchorage, Alaska, September 5, 1951
Sunrise Today 10:10 A.M. Sunset 10:10 P.M.
Temperature Today 69° - 81°
Temperature Yesterday 68° - 78°
Weather Partly Cloudy

Anchorage Daily Times
READ BY ALASKANS EVERYWHERE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, 1951
THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR
PRICE 10 CENTS

LOCAL PLANE CRASH KILLS 5

ENGINE AFIRE SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF; MISSES 3 HOMES BY FEW FEET

Five persons, including a newly-wed military couple, were killed late yesterday afternoon when a twin-engine Cessna smashed down in suburban Rogers Park just after taking off from Merrill Field for Seward.

This latest crash raises to 91 the number of persons killed or missing in a series of Alaskan air accidents that started July 21 with the disappearance of a Canadian Pacific Airlines DC-4 on a flight to Anchorage from Seattle with 38 Korea-bound servicemen aboard.

Pilot Norm Maither of Christiansen Air Service fought valiantly to keep the plane from striking houses, bringing it down in flames in the back yard of an occupied home and narrowly missing several other houses.

Persons killed in the crash included:

Norm Maither, about 42, formerly with CAA and as one time airport manager for the City of Anchorage.

O. M. Beaver, 37, senior member of the accounting firm of Beaver and Van-seventer.

Laurence Arndt, about 55, one of the original settlers in the Matanuska Valley and now an operator of a sawmill in Seward.

An Air Force captain and his Air Force nurse wife. They had been married only a few days. Their names are being withheld at the request of the military pending the notification of the next of kin.

The plane took off from Merrill Field at 4:40 p.m. A hundred feet in the air the craft's left engine caught fire and moments later it crashed just west of Cottonwood Avenue in Rogers Park, a short distance off Fireweed Lane.

Two Crashes Kill 14 Navy, Air Force Men

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho.
(AP)—Seven Air Force fliers were killed last night when a B-29 bomber crashed one-fourth mile from a runway at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Base public relations officials said all the victims were stationed at the air base and that the plane was on a routine training flight from the base.

Names were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The big bomber exploded on impact.

QUONSET POINT, R.I.
(AP)—A seven-man crew perished last night when a Navy patrol plane plunged into the sea and exploded during operations with a submarine.

The accident occurred about 30 miles east of Montauk Point, N.Y.

Witnesses said the plane gave evidence of distress just before the crash.

The plane was attached to patrol squadron five at Jacksonville.

One thing leads to another ...

Six Questions I am trying to answer:

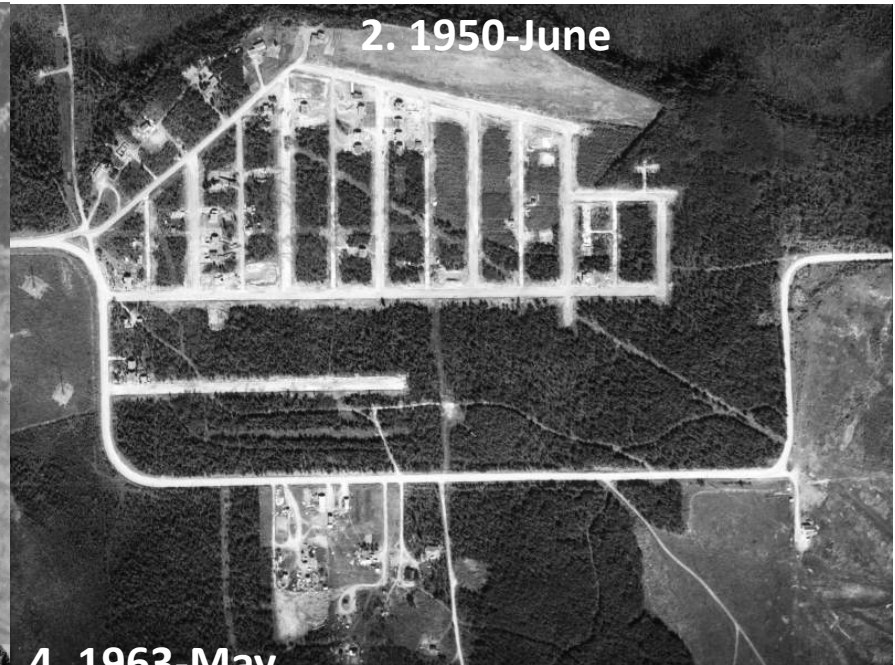
1. Who was Rogers?
2. Who built the oldest cabin in RP? When?
3. How did Rogers Park sub-division come to be?
4. What was the AfricanAmerican sub-division across Fireweed Lane? Who lived there?
5. Who was Joe Traversie?
6. Why was that community “urban renewed” away in the 1960s?

Rogers Park 1947 ... 1963

1. 1947-April



2. 1950-June



3. 1959-May



4. 1963-May



“the official story”

Rogers Park ... Robert J. Rogers

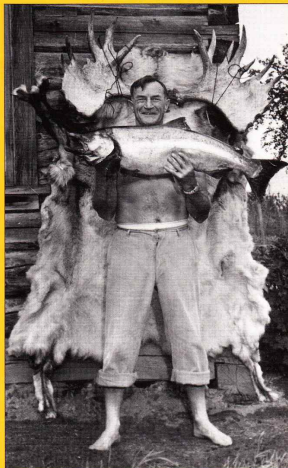
ROGERS Park

Robert J. Rogers (1920–1990) worked in construction and in 1939 homesteaded land that is now the Rogers Park Subdivision named for him. He was a 33rd-degree Mason, past Master of Juneau Lodge 147 and honorary Master of Anchorage Lodge 221.

Anchorage Place Names

The Who and Why of
Streets, Parks, and Places

By Rac Arno



Marvin R. "Muktuk" Marston, 1951
(Anchorage Museum, WWC 19-1)

Rogers was 33rd-degree Mason, 40-year resident of Alaska

Robert J. Rogers Sr., 69, died Tuesday at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital of a heart attack.

Mr. Rogers was born Oct. 22, 1920, in Boise, Idaho. He was a 40-year resident of Alaska and was retired from the construction industry.

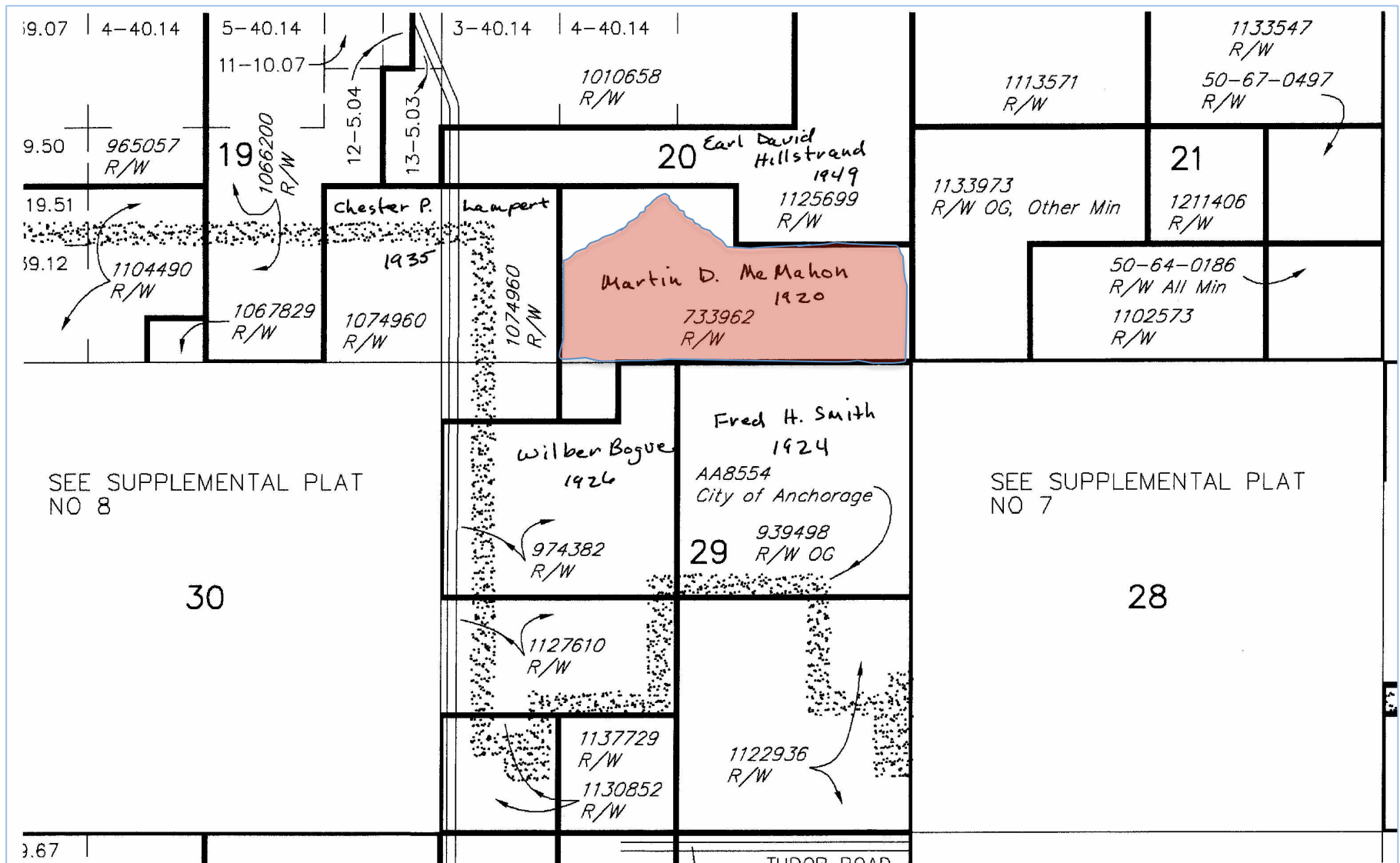
He was a 33rd-degree Mason, past Master of Juneau Lodge No. 147 and honorary Master of Anchorage Lodge No. 221. He was also a Past Scottish Rite Deputy in the Orient of Alaska.

Mr. Rogers leaves his wife, Beverly of Anchorage; son Robert Jr. of Anchorage; daughter Beverly Ann Hayes of Kenai; three grandchildren; two brothers, A.E. Rogers of Covina, Calif., and Claude Rogers of Mercedes, Texas; and one sister, Marguerite Linn of Carlsbad, Calif.

A memorial service was held in Fairbanks at the Chapel of Chimes on Saturday.

Thanks to Becky Orford, AK State Library Juneau

But ...original homesteads in area...

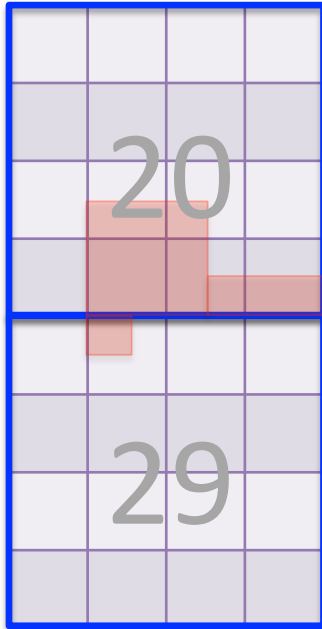


From BLM Master Title Plats 8-24-2011

Courtesy of Meg Hayes

But based upon Recorders Office Records:

1. 1920 Martin D. McMahon starts homesteading the future Rogers Park



Sections in Township 13, North of
Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

138

R.
Juneau 03781

4-1003

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Juneau, Alaska, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the Acts supplemental thereto, the claim of MARTIN D. McMAHON has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the

South half of the Southeast quarter, the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter, the South half of the Northeast quarter of the Southwest quarter, and the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section twenty and the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section twenty-nine in Township thirteen, North of Range three West of the Seward Meridian, Alaska, containing one hundred sixty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General.

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES, unto the said Claimant, the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant, and to the heirs and assigns of the said Claimant forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs, used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States. And there is also reserved to the United States a right of way for the construction of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, in accordance with the Act of March 12, 1914 (38 Stat., 305).

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the ELEVENTH day of FEBRUARY, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and TWENTY, and of the Independence of the United States, the one hundred and FORTY-FOURTH.

(Seal of the General Land Office)

By the President: Woodrow Wilson
By M. P. Le Roy Secretary
L. Q. C. Lamar
Recorder of the General Land Office

RECORDED: Patent Number 733962

The foregoing instrument was filed for record March 30, 1923, at 11:00 o'clock A. M., at the request of M. J. Conroy.

W. H. Rogers
District Recorder

Based upon Records Office Records

1. 1920 Martin D. McMahon starts homesteading the future Rogers Park
2. 1923 (March 30) McMahon is granted a homestead patent
3. 1923 (March 30) McMahon leases to M. J. Conroy
4. 1929 (April 24) McMahon sells to Christopher M. Dolan (of Fairbanks) .. 160 acres, "the said tract being known as the McMahon Homestead"
5. 1937 (Jan 11) Dolan sells to Raymond G. Wolf (of Anchorage)
6. 1937 (April 23) Wolf sells to Donald A. and Constance S. Woodworth
7. ???
8. 1940 (August 5) Robert J. Rogers leasing land to CAA
9. 1941 (August 23) Rogers is selling lots in Rogers Sub-division
10. 1946 (Feb 19) Mortgage of Lot 1 Block 2 of Rogers Park to Lionel and Josephine Meeker
11. 1948 (March 29) Rogers selling lots in Rogers Sub-division
12. "Alaska Board of Trade developers" comes on scene sometime in 1948-early 1949
13. 1949 (July 6) "Agreement to sell real property" by Rogers to Alaska Board of Trade (the majority of the plots in Rogers Sub-division)
14. 1949 (August 14) Quitclaim Deed from Woodworths to Rogers for the 160 acres

Rogers Park ... Original (Homestead) Cabin

Lot 1 of Block 2

1335 Bannister (now 1359)

1953



North side, looking east (renter)

1953



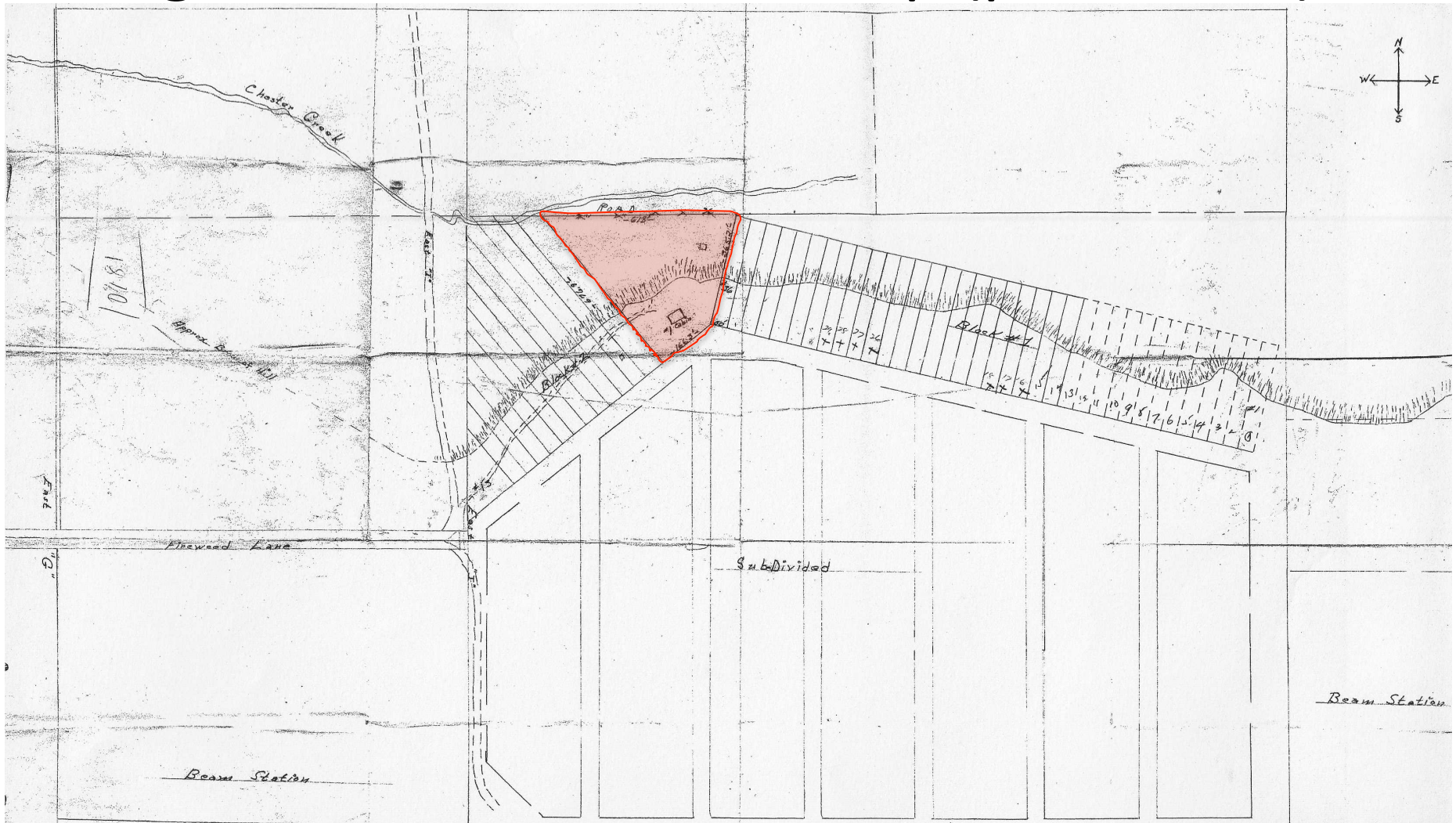
- Built ~1936?
- Ray G Wolfe? A Mr Bannister?
- Owned by L. J. Meeker to ~1946-47
- Owned by Ernie & Carie Boyd from 1946/7 to 1958
- Owned by The Drakes since 1958



View across Bannister toward
Sprucewood and the
Chugach Mountains

Courtesy Janet Drake

Rogers Park ... Undated Map (pre-1941?)



From Janet Drake: original pencil map found in a closet in her home, the log cabin on Bannister (Lot #1 of Block #2). Note the road to Anchorage is "East I". In next map it will be "Otis Lake Road".

?

Property of Robert L. Rogers
44 Hollywood Avenue
Chicago, 20, Illinois

Copy of map that
came with the house
Not dated

Who Was Rogers?

- Obituary: Robert J. Rogers, Sr., 1920-1990, “40 year resident of Alaska” born in Idaho. Wife’s name is Beverly. Son Robert Jr, daughter Beverly Ann
- Undated early hand-drawn map mentions “Rodert J. Rogers” of Chicago
- 1941 plat of Rogers Subdivision references Robert J. Rogers
- I spoke with Harley Clough, a Mason in Juneau who knew him: “He was in Juneau from 1954 to 1970; he had a construction business around town, it folded and he moved to Anchorage. He was 5’9”, bald, and lame in one foot.” He could not locate a photo.
- Records Office documents in 1940s and early 1950s refer to sales by “Robert J. Rogers and Dorothy E. Rogers, of Saugatuck, Michigan”

National Archives II (Maryland)

Home Builders-1950

Files in Record Group 207 207.9 Textual Records (General) 1934-70

Includes "Alaskan housing case files, 1949-67"

In 1950, a small construction company, "Home Builders", received \$72,000 from FHA To build 6 houses in Rogers Park. Four were on Galewood, and one was the one my father bought

National Archives II (Maryland)

Alaska Associates-1953 Problems with titles of Rogers Park Houses

Files in Record Group 207 207.9 Textual Records (General) 1934-70

Includes "Alaskan housing case files, 1949-67"

ALASKA HOUSING PROGRAM	MONTHLY PROJECT REPORT	March 5, 1953
Borrower: Alaska Associates, Inc. 203 Project, 25 single family houses		
Bond Issue Amount: \$340,600 10-10-51 1 year, ending 10-10-51, extended to 10-10-53		
<p>Remarks: This project is fully completed with approved FHA final inspection reports received by AHA. 22 houses have been sold with full down payments, one sold under contract for Deed and two have been leased. None of the Notes have been insured by FHA due to the Title difficulty which exists in Rogers Park. Kansas City Title has promised to rectify this situation as they are vitally interested since a title policy has been issued by them. Mr. McAdams of Kansas City Title had promised a visit here about January 1 to settle this matter but as yet he has not arrived. ...We are hopeful that the Title problem will be satisfied within the next two weeks so that FHA insurance can be obtained and ultimate sale of the Mortgages made.</p>		

The Title issues would not be resolved until July 1963.

House Burning in Rogers Park-1950

During the summer of 1950, Alvin and Mary Lee Campbell, African Americans, purchased land in Rogers Park (Block 28, Lot 1A I believe) from one of the Gatlin Brothers* or an associate of theirs, and had almost finished construction. On Sunday night, October 15, 1950, it was torched. The Campbells were living not far away and when they arrived the firemen were not doing anything to put out the fire. The day before, someone told the Campbells "you might finish the house but you will never enjoy living in it."

*I have a recollection of my mother talking about "the Gatlin Brothers". They were the principals of "Alaska Board of Trade": Earl and Austin Gatlin.

Fire Razes House Involved In Suit

Fire of undetermined origin last night destroyed a house under construction on Snow Cap Avenue in the Rogers Park subdivision.

The house, being built by Alvin Campbell, was the focal point in a recent court suit involving the racial issue.

Anchorage firemen, called at 11:25 p.m. yesterday, said the frame residence was beyond saving when they arrived. Only one wall was left standing.

Campbell was not occupying the house. He told firemen that it was virtually completed, but that he had not yet moved in furniture. No estimate of the loss was available.

The weekend's only other alarm also was outside the city limits — on Chugach Drive in Spenard. Spontaneous combustion is believed to have caused the blaze Saturday night, which scorched one wall and a dresser in the Joe Dawson home.

Mrs. Dawson, awakened by the smoke, was assisted by neighbors in subduing the fire before Engine Company No. 1 arrived.

Discriminatory Covenant

(1) The property hereby conveyed shall not be sold or alienated in any manner whatsoever to other than Americans of the white race.

WARRANTY DEED

THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into this 28th day of October, 1949 by and between ROBERT J. ROGERS, of Saugatuck, Michigan, hereafter referred to as the Grantor, and ROBERT A. GALBRATH, of Anchorage, Alaska, hereinafter referred to as the Grantees:

W I T N E S S E T H :

That the Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), lawful money of the United States of America, and other good and valuable considerations, to him in hand paid by the Grantees, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said Grantees and to their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, the following described real estate, situate within the Third Judicial Division, Territory of Alaska, to-wit:

Lot Three (3) Block Eleven (11) in ROGERS PARK SUBDIVISION, according to the map and plat thereof, filed June 25, 1949, in Page 148 in the office of the Precinct Recorder for the Anchorage Precinct, Third Division, Territory of Alaska.

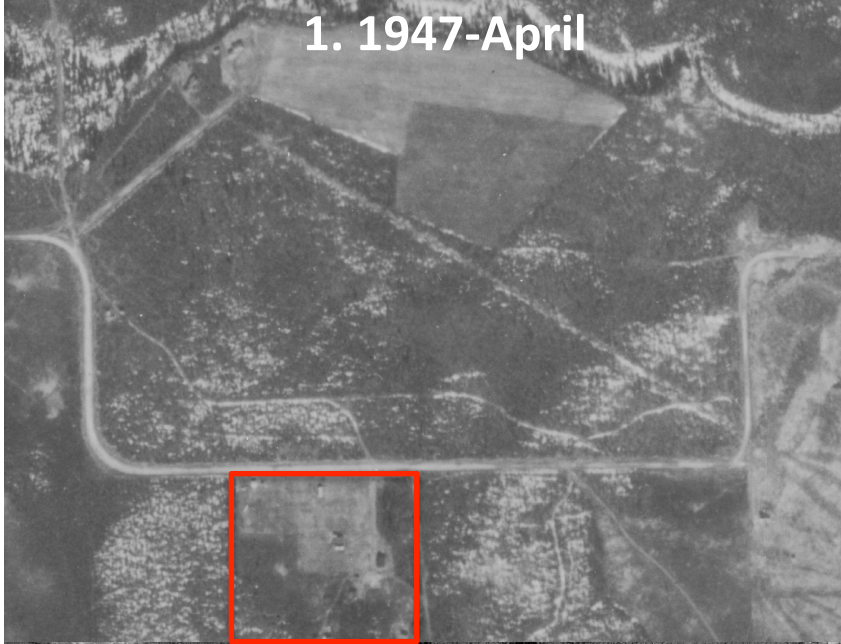
TOGETHER WITH ALL AND SINGULAR, the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining and including all buildings and improvements situated thereon subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) The property hereby conveyed shall not be sold or alienated in any manner whatsoever to other than Americans of the white race.
- (2) The lots hereby conveyed shall not be reduced in size other than that as shown by the official map and plat on file.
- (3) No residence shall be constructed on said premises of a value of less than \$5,000.00.
- (4) Any and all buildings constructed on said premises shall conform to the regulations and rules established by the Agent of the Grantor as to property lines and no buildings shall be constructed on said property which shall be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.
- (5) The covenants and restrictions are to run with the land and shall be binding on all the parties and all persons claiming under them until twenty five (25) years from the

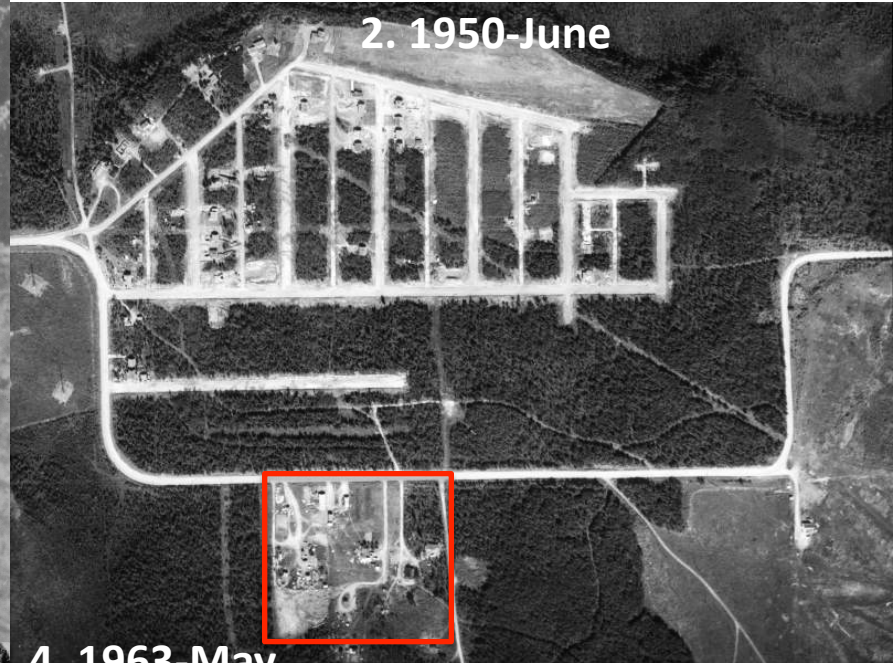
For a period of time, this clause was in covenants to buyers in Rogers Park

Traversie 1947 ... 1963

1. 1947-April



2. 1950-June



3. 1959-May



4. 1963-May



“Traversie”

USGS Dictionary of Alaska Place Names

Traversie: *area*, in S Anchorage, 2 mi. SE of City Hall, Cook Inlet Low.; 61°11'40" N, 149°51'20" W; (map 69).

Residential district in city of Anchorage reported in 1954 by office of city engineer of Anchorage.

Traversie subdivison 1949-51

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Recorder's Office UCC Online Filing Page 1 of 2

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Recorders Office - Document Display

Selected Document: 1951-900073-0
in District: 301 - ANCHORAGE

See Index Codes Cannot view images? See plat image

Document Year: 1951 Number: 900073 Suf: 0	District: 301 - ANCHORAGE
Date Recorded: 11/24/1951 Time: 10:30AM Pages: 1	
Index: PL - PLAT	Other ID: BK 11 PG 68 Assoc.Platt: P-234
Desc: PLAT	
Grantor - TRAVERSIE JOSEPH	
Grantee - JOSEPH TRAVERSIE SUBDIVISION	
Grantee - TRAVERSIE JOSEPH SUBDIVISION	
Location: Lot: 1	Plat: P-234
Location: Lot: 2	Plat: P-234
Location: Lot: 3	Plat: P-234
Comments: DOC SERIAL # ASSIGNED BY RECORDER STAFF FOR INDEXING PURPOSES ONLY	
Comments: ORIGINAL SERIAL NUMBER NOT AVAILABLE	

More Information for additional Legal Info.

Back More Legals

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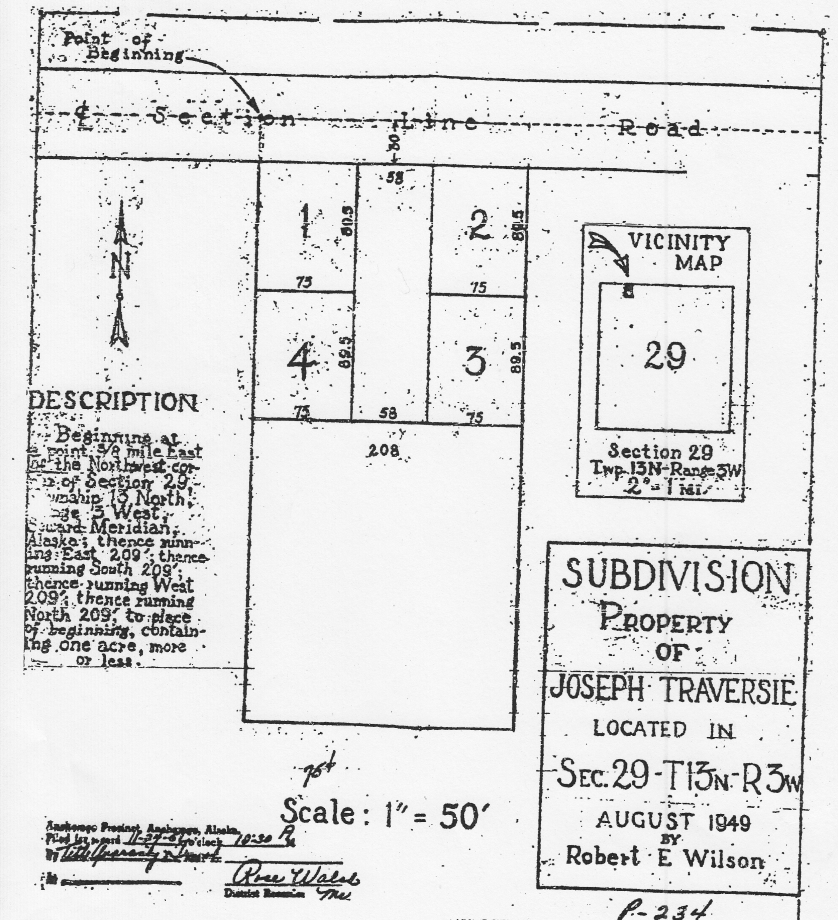
(Please Note: A "Wildcard" reference means the filing does not tie to an "active" filing; and, a filing shown as "active" does not necessarily mean effective.)

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Last updated on 09/15/2010.

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<http://int.dnr.alaska.gov/ssd/recoff/sag/DocDisplay.cfm?SelectedDoc=19519000730&Dist...> 9/15/2010



Memories of “Traversie”

Art Melickian of Palmer (born 1948), family lived over there

- He hung out there and caught hell from his Dad (like my brother). People who lived there were mostly blacks, a few natives, and almost no whites.
- Some houses, bars; hooker gals had shacks made out of tin and tar paper. Things laid out helter skelter. Old junk yard, cars from '20s and '30s. Yards full of chickens, packs of dogs running around.
- He remembers Club Mambo and other notorious places, also Eldorado Club there right on Fireweed Lane. He'd go round back of these places and pick up the pop bottles and take down to the liquor store to get a dime. A new pool hall/bar was built and then burnt down.

Joseph David Traversie

Born Oct 28, 1900 in Dewey Co. South Dakota
(Sioux Tribe)

First married to Laura Johnson, with 5?
children in SD

"Enlisted 8/8/42, Greenlee, AZ; with 2 years
high school; semi-skilled RR brake-man"

Married Gladys Hazel Samuelson
(born 1914 Egavik, Alaska, died 2003)
maiden name Savetilik, (Eskimo) wife of
Joseph Traversie

Was in Chugiak by 1960s, he and Gladys
caretakers for the school.

Data: Coleen Mielke & Genealogical sources



JOSEPH TRAVERSIE

Joseph Traversie Rites Tomorrow

Funeral services for Joseph David Traversie will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow in Green's Eagle River Mortuary.

Traversie died Sept. 22 in Anchorage. Born in Whitehorse, S.D. on Oct. 28, 1900, Traversie was 71 years old.

Traversie was a veteran of World War II and was employed by the Maintenance Department of the Chugiak School System.

He is survived by his widow,

Gladys H. Traversie of Mile 23, Chugiak; his daughter, Grace Traversie of Mile 23, Chugiak; a niece, Mrs. Helen O'Neil of Sitka; and a nephew, Sam Dupras of Anchorage.

Officiating at the funeral services will be the Rev. Norman Barram, pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Chugiak.

Burial will be in the Valley Memory Gardens Cemetery in Chugiak.

Paul J. Nettleton

Dies Here At 84

Funeral services for Paul J. Nettleton, 84, who died last Thursday in Community Hospital, will be held in Altadena, Calif. He had been visiting his two sons in Anchorage for the past two months.

Born Jan. 14, 1888 in California, he was a retired railroad engineer and a veteran of World War I.

Survivors are his two sons, Edward of Anchorage and Donald of Cooper Landing. Local arrangements are by Forest Lawn Mortuary.

REPORTS LOSS

Winthrop Fish, 1249 Banister, reported Saturday his home had been entered and about \$1,000 in camera and lenses and a rifle were stolen.

Joe & Gladys Traversie – Lakota Kennels



“Joe Traversie Team at Hallea Lodge – Race on Lake Lucille, Wasilla”
Reddington Family Collection, Anchorage Museum



Tyndrum Kennel team driven by Charles Macinnes, owner, racing at Lake Lugille, Alaska, in the early fifties.
“Chena”, the lead dog and “Oslo”, near swing, are out of Ch. U-Chee of Anadyr, the former sired by Keetna of Monadnock, latter sired by Pando of Monadnock. Swings and next two pair are littermates. “Keetna” right wheel.

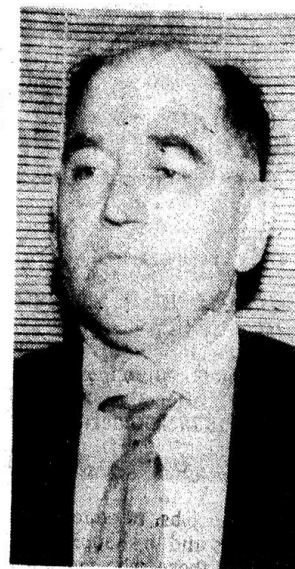
In the fifties the principal kennels in the Anchorage area were Alaskan Kennels (ours), Tyndrum Kennels (Charles and Kit Macinnes), Koiri Koti Kennels (Orville and Doris Lake), Nikohna Kennels (Roger and Reta Gidney), Lakota Kennels (Joe and Gladys Traversie), all of these within howling distance of one another, and Abaska Kennels (Hank and Lorna Buege) further out the Seward Highway. We are the only one still active.

Joseph David Traversie

Family sources:

Patsy Traversie (83 yrs old, in Kodiak); Joe was her uncle, served in Alaska in WW2, stayed after war. Some story about him and Fire Island. Known as "The Chief". He died in a car wreck a couple years before she came to Alaska (with Ken Hinchey, former Anchorage mayor) 8/15/11

Pandora Traversie (WA state): Joe was her grandfather. He was the black sheep of the family. Robbing banks in 30s; convicted of robbing bank in Chamberlin SD and given option of joining military and going to front lines, or jail. Somehow ended up in Alaska, loved it and stayed. Married Gladys, no biological children, one adopted.



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Traversie Urban Renewal-1958

March 1, 1958 Anchorage Daily News

City Approves Traversie Subdivision Renewal

Anchorage city council last night approved resolution 1148, to enter an agreement with the Alaska State Housing authority for the Urban Renewal of Northern Lights area known as Traversie subdivision.

By passing this resolution, the city committed itself for some \$100,000 as their share of the cost of the urban renewal. The city pays one third, while the federal government, through the Housing and Home Finance agency, pays the other two thirds. The cost of this project is estimated at \$331,690. The area approved for urban renewal, approximately 13 plus

acres, is slated to be purchased by the Anchorage Independent School district as a site for a new elementary school.

The urban renewal will necessitate the relocation of some 34 families and householders from the area. These people will be paid for their property by the Alaska State Housing authority on the basis of a fair market

(Continued on Page 2)

D. 13

SIZES TRUE

value as arrived at by two qualified appraisers.

This was one of the points brought up at the public hearing prior to passage of the resolution by the council. One of the residents of the area who appeared asked Victor Fischer of the Alaska State Housing authority where the appraisers came from. When told that both appraisers were outsiders, not from Alaska, the objection was raised that they could not arrive at a fair market value by Alaska standards.

Other residents appeared at the hearing either protesting or asking for further clarification of the project. One asked why it had taken so long for the project to get under way. He pointed out that this program has been in the works for nearly three years and that in all that time the residents of the area have been unable to do any work on their property because under urban renewal, once a project is under its cloud, all improvements and alterations are automatically frozen.

Some objected to having to relocate if the property is to be used as a school. They assert that within a few blocks is another elementary school and feel that there is sufficient other property in the general area should a new school be needed.

Most of those appearing at the hearing asked the most pressing question, "How much?" will be paid for the property. Without this knowledge, which Fischer said was unavailable, they feel that they have no idea which way to turn. One man said that only half of his property is being included in the urban renewal but until he has a figure with which to work, he is afraid to enter into any contract for moving his house to the portion of his property not included in the urban renewal.

General resentment was expressed that the urban renewal was entered in the area shortly after the section came into the city. The council assured the people that the area was not singled out for any vindictive purpose but they were included in urban renewal under the city-wide attempt to clean up sub-standard housing through urban renewal.

With the passage of the resolution, the project can now move into high gear, being submitted sometime this week, according to Fischer, to the Housing and Home Finance agency, who should have their end of it completed sometime around the middle of April.

Fischer said he expects once the project gets rolling like this it should be about the middle of June when the Alaska State Housing authority can start negotiating with property owners.

OKAY DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

Council Authorizes \$110,002 For Urban Renewal Project; To Move 34 Families

The Anchorage City Council has given the go ahead to 1959

the Northern Lights Urban Renewal Project after hearing in suspense since 1959. John- residents of the area com- son asked, "Why do we have plain of delay to move out — give us a

By a vote of 5-3, the council chance and we will bring our approved the plan for rede- homes up to (city building) velopment of the 13.7-acre specifications."

Johnson claimed there was no need for another school in the area since the Lake Otis elementary school "is within a stone's throw" of the re- newal site.

THE REMINDER OF the net project cost of \$331,690 has been set aside by the federal government, said Victor Fischer, acting executive director of the Alaska State Housing Authority, which acts as agent and supervisor of urban renewal projects.

About 34 families will be relocated and buildings torn down to make way for an elementary school, Fischer said. The Independent School District has agreed to purchase the land "at fair market value," he said.

Acquisition of land will begin the middle or latter part of April, Fischer told the council.

RESIDENTS OF the area, Charles E. Johnson, Woodson Williams, J. C. Casey, and Robert Bailey, protested the delay in launching the pro-

could be moved to the other acre, Casey said.

CASEY WAS directed to request an inspection of the building by the city building inspector.

Stating he had a fine home, Bailey declared "if they're going to buy my land, they're going to buy my house." He was assured the house would be purchased.

Councilman Robert Livie said he questioned the need for another school in the area, also.

Approval of the project was opposed by Dr. Livie and Councilmen Harry Pursell and Ron Rettig.

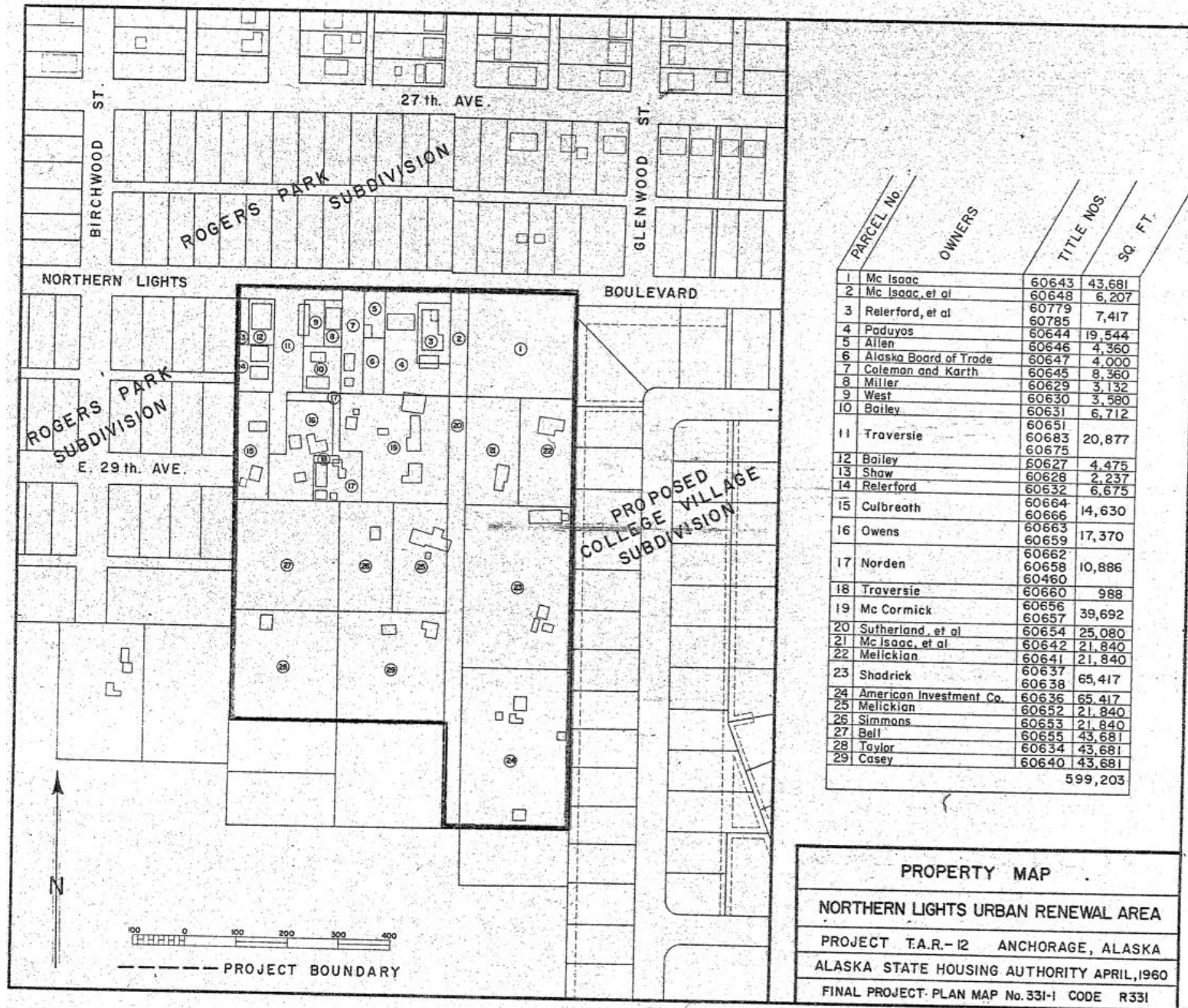
(Thanks to Bruce Merrell)

“Northern Lights Urban Renewal Project, R-12”

Some relevant highlights in the Alaska Archives:

- January 1959: \$10,000 of AK Housing Authority and Rogers Parks funds embezzled by the AHA staff member Alpha Berfield
- January 1960: AK Supreme Courts puts roadblocks up to AHA's condemnation proceedings to acquire land for urban renewal
- April 1960: \$278,000 allocated for R-12, Project Proposal voted on by AHA
- October 1960: Revised Proposal for R-12
- January 1961: Yet another revised proposal for R-12

Juneau State Archives AK Housing Authority, Box 10314, 4/19/65 attachment



January 11, 1961

Juneau State Archives
AK Housing Authority,
Box 10320, Jan 11,
1961, attachment

PROJECT ALASKA R-12
NORTHERN LIGHTS, ANCHORAGE

RELOCATION PLAN

Relocation activities will commence with the first acquisition of properties within the project area. We are assuming that relocation activities will take place over an eight-month period from the date of the first acquisition.

Prior to the execution of the relocation plan, current listings from real estate agencies, apartment operators, the Civilian-Military Referral Service, newspaper ads, and individuals will have been inspected to determine if the units meet the standards for relocation housing. After inspection, relocatees will be referred until suitable housing is found. If adequate housing has been offered that is within relocatee's financial means and he fails to accept without justification, the obligation of the Alaska State Housing Authority will be terminated. If a relocatee desires to purchase or build he may be certified by the Project Manager as an eligible applicant for Section 221 financing and referred to his local lending institution and the Federal Housing Administration for approval. There are presently 57 FHA 221 commitments available for relocation purposes.

It is assumed that 34 families and householders will have to be relocated from the Northern Lights project area. During the eight-month period of relocation we estimate that a minimum of 5 families or householders will be relocated each month. The rate of acquisition will be the determining factor of the actual workload.

Families:	White	1	1 owner
	Non-white	22	10 owner, 12 renter
		<u>23</u>	
Householders:	White	0	
	Non-white	11	4 owner, 7 renter
		<u>11</u>	
Roomers:	White	0	
	Non-white	7	
		<u>7</u>	
Commercial:		7	4 owner, 3 renter

Proposed Relocation

Families:	9 private rental housing units
	11 private sales housing units
	3 public housing units
Householders:	7 private rental housing units
	4 private sales housing units
<u>Total Relocation Requirements</u>	16 private rental housing units
	15 private sales housing units
	3 public housing units

Property management and relocation will be a combined position under a single individual so that little difficulty will be encountered in coordinating the relocation activities with management of acquired properties.

*For set of Conditions, see Exhibit "7" attached.

Some Answers but still Some Questions

1. Who was Rogers?
2. Who built the oldest cabin in RP? When?
3. How did Rogers Park sub-division come to be?
4. Who was Joe Traversie?
5. What was the AfricanAmerican sub-division across Fireweed Lane? Who lived there?
6. Why was it “urban renewed” away in the 1960s?

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