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Guide to Collection

Wilson, Bruce A., 1921-1991, and Merilynn A. Wilson, 1922-

Official Diary of the Sweet-Wilson Expedition into the Frozen Tundra of the Far North.
[April 27 - August 31, 1946]

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plus handwritten index and supplementary notes

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Bibliographic Note

Bruce A. Wilson, after his discharge from the U.S. Air Force, traveled to Alaska in the summer of 1946 in search of material for magazine articles on a free-lance basis. He later was an editor and publishers of several newspapers in North Dakota and Washington and also served as a state senator for several terms in Washington.

Scope and Contents Note

Diary of trip to Alaska, April - August, 1946, with Ozzie Sweet, a friend and magazine photographer from Connecticut. They sought "real-Alaskan" stories and opinions on issues facing post-war Alaska for several magazines on a free-lance basis. The diary's purpose was to preserve notes for later writing. Recounts many interviews with people met during trip. In July, the two were joined by their wives, who contributed background notes to the manuscript. Ozzie Sweet's photography notes are at end. Handwritten index by Wilson at beginning. Places visited include Seattle, Juneau, Nenana, Fairbanks, Ft. Yukon, Ester, Cripple Creek, Cleary, Eagle, Paxton, Chitina, Keystone Canyon, Valdez, Anchorage, Kotzebue, St. Mary's Mission, Kodiak, Nome, Barrow, Mt. McKinley, Homer, Seward, Juneau, Dawson, Ketchikan, via Pan American airlines, Alaska Railroad, car and ship. Alaskans interviewed include Bill Williams, Howard Wakefield, Harry Hoben, and Harry Palmer (Alaska Railroad); Frank Martin and Leonhard Seppala (Alaska Sweepstakes); Wien Family (Wien Alaska Airlines);

Frank Pollock; Jim Dodson; Carl Lomen, May Bale, Bill Munz, Michael Kazingnuk, Charles Yager and Grant Jackson (Nome); Joe Amarok (Eek); Margaret Kirchner and Dave and Tommy Brower (Barrow); Frank Leach (Circle); Otto A. Nelson (Chitina); Andrew Nerland, Harry Badger, William Gilscher, Lucile Albin, Maude Boyle, and Don Adler (Fairbanks); Harry Palmer, Archie Ferguson; Dick Willoughby (Glacier City); Henry Ohlson (Homer), George Kennedy; Mrs. Ken Rank and Edward William Nelson (King Islanders); Wilson Erskine and Dr. A. Holmes Johnson (Kodiak), Ernest Gruening, Cap Lathrop. They interviewed veterans of World War II from all over the state.

Original: Typescript on onion-skin paper (2.0 Inches)

Copy: photocopy, double-sided (1.25 inches)

Hand-written index available in collection.

1. Seattle 2. Juneau 3. Nenana 4. Fairbanks 5. Ft. Yukon 6. Ester 7. Cripple Creek
8. Cleary 9. Eagle 10. Paxton 11. Chitina 12. Keystone Canyon 13. Valdez 14.
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20. Mt. McKinley 21. Homer 22. Seward 23. Juneau 24. Dawson 25. Ketchikan.

Wilson, Bruce A. Wilson, Merilynn A. Sweet, Ozzie Alaska--Description and
Travel--1898-1959. Veterans

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