

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Brooks, Maria

Alaska Women's Oral History Project, 1980-1983

MS 63

3 boxes

Processed by: Staff

Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, June 2017

ACQUISITION: Provenance unknown.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. The folders are in alphabetical order by last name of interviewee. All items have been placed into pH-neutral folders and then into archival boxes. *See also:* DVD 0013.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Maria Brooks has been active in producing oral history projects. In 1983, she compiled the Alaska Women's Oral History Collection, which includes audio recordings and transcripts of interviews.

This project was funded by grants from the State of Alaska, Dept. of Education, the Alaska Humanities Forum, and the Alaska Historical Commission, and in-kind support from the Alaska Historical Society and Anchorage Community College.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection includes interviews of women in Alaska born between 1866-1937. Each woman discusses her life, her work, and her experiences in Alaska. Contained in this collection are sound cassettes, logs, and transcripts of some interviews, a video recording, articles, and photocopies of photographs.

INVENTORY

Box 1

"Alaska Women's Oral History Collection" catalogue and index compiled by Maria Brooks.

Folder 1

Alaska Women – Index of Interviews

Folder 2

Bertha Adsuna – Traditional Eskimo healing practices; description of life in Nome and Solomon 1935-44

Folder 3

Esther Agibinik – Eskimo village life (Unalakleet); reindeer herding; skin sewing

Folder 4

Virginia Allen – Athabascan village traditions; growing up in Ruby on the Yukon River

Folder 5

Lil Angerman – Growing up in Fairbanks (1909-20); union organizing (Culinary Workers)

Folder 6

Mary E. Bahr – Daughter of Lapp herdsman, she describes her life in Unalakleet 1903-1940

Folder 7

Elizabeth Baines – Tlingit customs; food and herb gathering

Folder 8

Vide Bartlett – Childhood on creeks near Dawson City; description of life in Cleary City and Fairbanks 1910-1920 (*no transcript*)

Folder 9

Jessica Bloom – Women's suffrage in Alaska 1913; life in Fairbanks 1912-1940

Folder 10

Phina Bowers – History of life in Ninilchik (Russian Customs)

Folder 11

Louise Brightman – Growing up in Sitka, Alaska; mother's stories of town after purchase; Anglo and Russian tensions after purchase

Folder 12

Edith Bullock – Life in Nome and Kotzebue, 1939-56

Folder 13

Ruth E. Burnett – Mayor of Fairbanks, Alaska; her background and political concerns

Folder 14

Phyllis Carlson – Alaskan experienced, retired teacher and research librarian from Loussac Library: 1914 in Cordova to time of retirement in 1977 (*no transcript*)

Folder 15

Katherine Chichenoff – Life on Kodiak and Afognak Islands; discussion of midwives on Afognak (*no transcript*)

Folder 16

Dorothy Collins – Living in the Interior (Holy Cross, Russian Mission, McGrath) 1930-41

Folder 17

Lucy Cuddy – Early days in Valdez, AK, 1917-30

Folder 18

Vanny Davenport – Childhood in Mining Camps, 1917-26

Folder 19

Millie Dodson – Working on Fox Farm in Kasilof, 1928; bush pilots air service 1935-42

Folder 20

Rusty Dow – Life as a commercial truck driver in Alaska, 1934-50

Folder 21

Susan Block English – Growing up in Seldovia, 1904-1920

Folder 22

Katherine Fanning – Anchorage Daily News owner

Folder 23

Gemma Joseph Gaudio – Describes Eskimo village and family life; growing up in Hooper Bay

Folder 24

Dorothy Haaland – Lawyer; U.S. Commissioner in Cordova; feminist concerns; memories of the Alaska Bar 1945-70

Folder 25

Esther Hall – Growing up in Douglas, AK; Life in Bethel, Nenana and Fairbanks 1920-40

Folder 26

Lorene Harrison – Life and career in Anchorage 1928-1950

Folder 27

Norma Hoyt – Fairbanks in 1931; collecting Alaskan Native trade beads and Alaskan books

Box 2

Folder 28

Mildred Jacobson – Growing up in mission school at Holy Cross; teaching at B.I.A. school at Hooper Bay 1944-48

Folder 29

Myrtle Johnson – Growing up in Golovin in the Eskimo way of life, racial tensions in Nome, family stories

Folder 30

Alma Jones – Reflections, duties and attitudes of the only woman Business Agent in General Teamsters Local 959, State of Alaska, who handles telephone operators working for Alascom. She was appointed B.A. by Jesse Carr in 1974 (*no transcript*)

Folder 31

Della Keats – Life of a Tribal Eskimo Doctor (healer)

Folder 32

Harriett [Harriet] Kepler – Homemaker in the Matanuska Valley 1927

Folder 33

Carrie Kielcheski – Life in Seward, Alaska 1921-42

Folder 34

Clara King – Cooking in a Mining Camp, Homesteading in Hope, Alaska 1932-39

Folder 35

Mildred Kirkpatrick – Childhood with missionary father, life in Seward (circa 1947)

Folder 36

Florence Knox – Athabascan village life 1900-1930

Folder 37

Dorothy Lingo – Daughter of Territorial Governor Troy; growing up in Juneau 1913-18, life in Alaska

Folder 38

Edyth Longacre (Mrs. John) – Life in Sulfer Creek near Dawson City and Camp Katalla 1904-1910

Folder 39

Helen Malcolm – Growing up on Unalaska 1901-1919; life in the Jessie Lee Home

Folder 40

Lucille Morganari – Experiences of a Woman Activist in the Restaurant Workers Union

Folder 41

Martha Nanouk – Born in Unalakleet in 1909, discusses the changes in village life

Folder 42

Margaret Nelson – Homemaking in Big Delta and Eagle 1939-50

Folder 43

Hazel Nixon (maiden name Winchell) – Early life in Minnesota; moves to Seattle, Ketchikan, and Kodiak; life on a dairy farm on Kodiak; changes in life here [Kodiak] (*no transcript*)

Folder 44

Violet O'Neil (Mrs. William) – Growing up in Alaska 1911-1935

Folder 45

Rose Palmquist – Labor organizing 1937-51; political concerns of older persons in Alaska

Folder 46

Jetret Petersen (Mrs. Allan) – Teaching school in Seldovia, 1915; Kenai 1920-1936; Teaching on Unga Island 1936-1948

Folder 47

Thelma Peterson – Juneau in 1934; working on fishing boat (*no transcript*)

Folder 48

Anne Purdy – Teaching in Chicken and Franklin, 1927-30 (*no transcript*)

Folder 49

Caroline Reader – Life in Nome 1905-1940; biography of mother, Carrie McLean

Folder 50

Tillie Reeve – Life in Valdez 1934-40; Alaska during World War II (*no transcript*)

Folder 51

Irene Ryan – Anchorage 1931-32; Alaska in World War II; career as State Legislator

Folder 52

Lorena Showers – Juneau 1940; Anchorage 1941; Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union (*no transcript*)

Folder 53

Hollis Smith (Mrs. Smith's husband, Loren, speaks on tape) - Colonizing the Matanuska Valley, 1935 (*no transcript*)

Folder 54

Selma Smith (Mrs. William) – Teaching School on Unga Island 1923

Folder 55

Margaret Strand – Nursing career; Seward hospital 1933-36

Folder 56

Edith Tegoseak – Life in Barrow 1919-1939; Eskimo way of life

Folder 57

Marjorie Tillotson – Teaching school in Juneau 1930-45

Folder 58

Minnie "Grandma" Tucker – Traditional Eskimo life at Rocky Point; Eskimo stories and songs

Folder 59

Anna Twitchell – Reindeer herding; role of women in Laplander family; growing up as herdsman 1916-1940 (*no transcript*)

Folder 60

Doris Walkowski – Life in Anchorage 1926-40

Folder 61

Eugenie Williams – Working for Board of Missions in Sitka 1939; Native Health services to Southeast villages 1945

Folder 62

Eva Kelly Williams – Black Alaskan remembers growing up in Chicago; arriving in Alaska in 1944

Folder 63

Emma Willoya – Reindeer herding on Seward Peninsula; Nome Skin Sewers sew for US Army; Eskimo way of life 1920-40

Folder 64

Julia Wolkoff – Work as a midwife on Kodiak Island

Folder 65

Ginny Hill Wood – Flying, in W.A.S.P. and as commercial pilot in Arctic; establishing of Camp Denali

Folder 66

Manila Bay Yohn – Colonizing the Matanuska Valley 1935

Folder 67

Helen Zerbetz – Ketchikan in 1925-30 (*no transcript*)

Folder 68

Photographs (photocopies) of:

Katherine Fanning
Thelma Peterson
Marjorie Tillotson
Eugenie Williams

Box 3

15 cassette tapes (8 original and 7 copy 2s)

“Interviews with History” KSKA Radio Program

INTERVIEWS WITH HISTORY: “Oral Histories of Alaskan Pioneer Women.” Interviews with History is a weekly half-hour program which uses excerpts from oral histories of Alaskan pioneer women. The women in the series discuss experiences as varied as living on the creeks near Dawson City in 1904, to flying in the WASP (Women's Air Service Pilots) during World War II. The oral histories are from the Alaskan Women's Oral History Collection housed at ACC. The program will highlight the life of the pioneer woman in her own words. The interviewer is Maria Brooks.

- Tape 1: **Esther Agibinik**
Eskimo skin sewer talks about her traditional way of life, and the stresses upon it.
- Tape 2: **Virginia Allen**
Growing up female in an Athabaskan village, 1911-30.
- Tape 3: **Edith Bullock Part I**
Territorial legislator discusses her life in Kotzebue and Nome, 1939-56.
- Tape 4: **Edith Bullock Part II**
- Tape 5: **Edith[Edyth] Longacre**
Life on the creeks near Dawson and in the Alaska Territory, 1904-10.

- Tape 6: **Dorothy Lingo, Vanny Davenport, Helen Malcolm**
Discuss their childhoods in the Alaska Territory, 1901-18.
- Tape 7: **Jetret Petersen**
Teaching school in Seldovia and Kenai, 1918-22.
- Tape 8: **Ginny Hill Wood**
Co-founder of Camp Denali talks about ferry planes for the Women's Air Force Service Pilots in World War II and life in Fairbanks in the late 1940s.

U-Matic Video Cassette Tape & VHS tape

“WOMEN OF THE ALASKA TERRITORY: AN ORAL HISTORY”

28 minute television program produced by Maria Brooks for Channel 7, TV, Anchorage: “Bright Ideas”

19 women talk about their lives in the Alaska Territory between 1904-1945. Subjects include women's suffrage, work, social customs, Native women's experiences, World War II. The program is highlighted with over 200 Archival photographs and include music and narration.