Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Brooks, Maria


MS 63

3 boxes

Processed by: Staff
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen, June 2017

ACQUISITION: Provenance unknown.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. *See Statement To Users located in Masterfile.*

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 herdsmen, 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

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS063.pdf
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
**Harriet [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 herdswoman 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 Athabascan 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.