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Pilgrim Interview, March 1952, No Location, Interviewed by Ms. Nick Eidam

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

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Notes: Original of 5 inch reel. Master copy on CD.

Ms. Nick Eidam of The College Community Women's Club. Mrs. Mary F. Pilgrim discusses Alaskan authors. This is part two. Alaska literature subjects discussed include: history, Alaska Natives (Dr. Skarland is referenced and mentioned that he teaches at the UAF), fishing and hunting, bird ontology, children's books. Ms. Pilgrim is asked if the books are authentic representations of Alaska. She says most are authentic but a few are decidedly overdrawn. Ms. Pilgrim says there are even errors in school textbooks. In the fourth grade reader, "Times and Places", an Alaska Native boy has a pet reindeer where there are fine fir trees which don't exist in Alaska. Ms. Pilgrim says Robert Service is the best known Alaska poet. Ms. Pilgrim discusses an organization in Whitehorse who purchased an old bank from 1930 where Service worked at and plan to turn it into a museum. Fritz Bartz is a German professor at the University of Kiel and lived in Alaska from 1936-1938. He wrote a book called "Alaska." Ms. Pilgrim has especially enjoyed an "Alaskan Indian Dictionary" by Charles A. Lee and "A Geographic Dictionary of Alaska" by Marcus Baker in 1901.