

ORAL HISTORY 78-40-05

Pioneer Women of Alaska

Mike Dalton

Fairbanks, Alaska

Spring 1974

Mike reads from the entries of the membership book of the Pioneer Women of Alaska. She reads the obituary of Louis J. Buzby who died in 1937. She was born in 1870. She came to Fairbanks in 1905.

Mary Bayless came to Skagway, Alaska in 1897. She and her husband operated several motels and a trading post in the Yukon Territory.

Another Bayless listed was Bilva Brian Bayless. She arrived in Circle, Alaska on June 9, 1907 and married in 1908. Howard Bayless of Copper Center is her son. She also had Grover and Electa.

Nettie Baatz was born in London, England and arrived in Alaska in the spring of 1900.

Minnie Brewis was born in Nelson, NE and arrived in Alaska March of 1899. She had hiked the trail to the Klondike in 1898. She arrived in Alaska in 1899. She was living in the Pioneer Home in 1974. She has two daughters in Fairbanks, Mrs. Gladys Sams and Barbara Lindberg. Mike talks about traveling over to Dawson to talk to "stampeder" in August of 1973. There were no '97 or '98 stampeder left in the Dawson area. Mrs. Brewis was a child at the time she came over the trail. Mike talks about several newspaper clippings. The first one is from 1948 when Minnie Brewis and Richard Rothenberg were queen and king regents for the ice carnival. Both of the regents had been in Alaska for fifty years. Another article was from February 4, 1948 when she was elected queen regent.

Wilhelmina C. Bentley was born in Minnesota and arrived in Dawson in 1899. Her husband, Harry Bentley owned the Bentley Dairy. Mike talks about the location of the Bentley Dairy on the north side of the Chena River. The area was being subdivided by Cliff Bergman for development at the time of the recording. M.C. Bentley was seventy years old at the time of her death. She was born in Germany in 1864 and married in 1895. Mrs. Jessie Bjerremark was born in Toronto Canada in June 4, 1864 and arrived in Alaska by coming over the White Pass trail in 1897. Mike reads an article about her 75th birthday.

Cora Hamilton Blondeau was born in 1883 in Tennessee. She arrived in Alaska in September 1904. She was in Dawson before coming to Alaska.

Ethel M. Bennett was born in Seattle. She arrived in Alaska in the summer of 1900. She lived in Dawson until she moved to Fairbanks. She married Leslie Bennett in 1912. Mrs. Margaret Anna Brandt arrived in Skagway in 1900. Eventually she moved to Fairbanks and worked as a telephone operator. Mike talks about the Brandt subdivision. Margaret Brandt died in 1948 in California.

Jenny "June" Kitchen Bean was born in Nova Scotia. She arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1904. She died in 1939. Mike reads from her biography from her funeral announcement. Her husband was Frank Bean. Her son was Theodore DePencier and her daughter was Mrs. Harry Stacer.