

H88-49-84

Potlatch Radio Show produced by KUAC

Muktuk Marston and the Alaska Territorial Guards

Peter LaFarge song

Muktuk Marston talked about coming to Alaska in 1941 with the United States Army. He went to Nome, Alaska. The enemy was expected, but Alaska wasn't ready. He had been out with the Eskimos and proposed to Simon Buckner to organize the Eskimos for surveillance along the coast. The idea wasn't readily accepted by Buckner. Marston thought Buckner was prejudiced. He went over his head to Governor Gruening who liked the idea. Marston then organized the scouts of Alaska. He traveled by dog team to the villages and explained the problem. He was headquartered in Nome. He met Rodden in Nome. Marston talked about the prejudice against the Eskimos. Rodden went out to the villages with Marston and saw how the scouts were needed. He talked about another trip he took into the villages including the village of Teller. He was taking guns to the Eskimo scouts. Muktuk talked about the book he wrote about the Eskimo scouts. He put Eskimo scouts at Good News Bay Mine to protect it. Marston talked about the trouble getting supplies to the area. He discussed the importance of the chain of command in battle. Marston described a trip down the Yukon River to St. Mary's and signing up an Eskimo scout. The Eskimos were ready to defend the shores of Alaska. There were about 4,000 Eskimos signed up for the Alaska Territorial Guard. He described the uniform of the scouts. There were others involved in the defense program including the women and children. Marston talked about the Japanese using balloons with bombs.