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ORAL HISTORY 2012-14
PTS, 1-2



Robyn Russell <rrussell@alaska.edu>

Mondor interview summary

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Below is interview summary information Dirk did for the interview he and I did with Colleen Mondor on Friday, July 13, 2012 here at Rasmuson Library. Hope this is what you need to help with your cataloging. Let me and Dirk know if you have more questions.

I'd also add to Dirk's comments that she discussed her UAF education and specific faculty who were her mentors. I remember the names of Judith Kleinfeld, Terrence Cole, Sherri Simpson, and Craig Gerlach. She got a Master's in Northern Studies with her thesis being on causes of airplane accidents. She already had a degree in aviation before coming to Alaska, but she may have gotten another bachelor's degree in history here, too. Can't quite remember what she said. There may have been more, but those are the main ones I remember.

The interview was inspired because Colleen is a UAF alum with a book just published "Map of My Dead Pilots." Leslie has the book if you want to look at it. Fits with interview Leslie did earlier with another published Alum whose name I can't remember. These requests for these alum/writer interviews are coming to us from elsewhere.

The book is about when she worked as a dispatcher for local commuter air service in the mid-1990s. Stories about aviation industry, flying, pilots, crashes, the work environment, lose of friends and coworkers, etc. So this was the thematic basis for the interview.
Karen

Colleen Mondor Interview – Aviation Synopsis

Colleen provided considerable information into various aspects of small Air Taxi businesses operating under Part 135 of FAA regulations with a maximum of 19 passengers.

Subjects concerning pilots included: Interactions between pilots and other ground personnel - between pilots and company management - between pilots and the FAA - between pilots and other pilots - and attitude of pilots.

Topics concerning operations included: Honesty or dishonesty of operations personnel – aircraft maintenance - management pressure – bad weather – FAA inspections – runway quality in remote locations

Topics concerning freight included: Types of freight carried – overloading aircraft – carrying corpses – carrying sled dogs – prisoner transport - mentally disturbed passengers - carrying the mail - competition between carriers to get the mail.

We also talked about: The role of maintenance in accidents – role of pilot error in accidents – quality of pilots – and the “Bush Pilot” myth.