

SEATTLE ADDRESS  
836-N.W. 57 ST

SEATTLE, WASH. 98107

resides  
in Seattle

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: FRANK NIGRO  
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) \_\_\_\_\_ (MAIDEN NAME:) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: c/o Marilyn Nigro P.O. Box 70624 Fbks. AK 99707  
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: JAN. 9, 1914 BIRTHPLACE BROOKLYN NEW YORK  
(city/state)

SPOUSE: PAULINE NIGRO

MARRIAGE DATE: DEC 4, 1945 PLACE: EDMONTON, ALBERTA CANADA

CHILDREN: 3

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: 1936 TO 1973

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: NORDALE HOTEL - FBKS.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

In search of work, Frank Nigro traveled the length and breadth of the United States during the Depression. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cutting trees in Vermont with a two man saw. With this newly acquired skill, Nigro hoped to work in the timber industry in Alaska. Enroute to Ketchikan in 1936, he was shipwrecked. He eventually (over)

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: Aug 17, 1993 TAPE NUMBER: 502 in book

Came to Fairbanks and briefly worked in mining before landing a job at the Nordale Hotel, his primary place of employment until the hotel burned down in 1972. Nisro was stationed at Ladd Field (now Ft. Wainwright) during World War II and ran the social club on base for Russian pilots ferrying Lend-Lease planes to Siberia. This tape contains many anecdotes about the Nordale Hotel and about the night it burned down.

### Names mentioned on tape

Roy Blockhus, clerk at Nordale

Mike Erceg

Mrs. Simpanen

Herm Joslyn - Pollack Airways

Bill Hunter

Freida and Max Baumeister

Lloyd Pike

Arnie Lee - manager of Nordale

Adolph Stock

Ernest Gruening

President Harding

Eva McGown

Colonel Gaffney