

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Catherine S. Fenton
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME: Sandy (MAIDEN NAME: Smith)

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 1207 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: 5/5/19 BIRTHPLACE Cedar City, Utah
(city/state)

SPOUSE: Richard McAllister Fenton

MARRIAGE DATE: 4/3/37 PLACE: Barrow, Utah

CHILDREN: Frederica Buffmire
Kate LaFollette

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: Since 1940

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Cosmetologist

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

Catherine Fenton arrived in Fairbanks, traveling from Seattle by boat to Valdez and finally by road in June 1940. Her husband, Richard "Mac" Fenton was working as a pharmacist at McIntosh and Kubon Drugstore.

Catherine worked for the telephone exchange as an operator in the Northern Commercial Company which supplied phone service to downtown Fairbanks. She talked about how the exchange worked and who was working with her at the time.

After the second world war, the Fentons opened Fenton's Pharmacy across from the Co-op on Second Avenue in 1946. When the Northward Building was completed in 1952, the couple moved their drugstore to that location, operating as the Northward Drugstore for many years. Fenton talked about the affect of the 1967 flood on business as well as

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: April 25, 1994 TAPE NUMBER: 586

anecdotes about the flood and other incidents related
to their many years in business before closing the store
in 1977.

Names mentioned on tape

Billy Root
Mary Berglund
Huldah Ford
Gladys Morris
John Clapp
Mr. Kubon (Ralph)
M

6/23/94