

My name is Betty West Miller and I was born in Juneau, Alaska at the old St. Ann's Hospital on December 11, 1936. I have lived here all my life except for one year when my husband had left to serve while stationed in Texas. Norm and I will be celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary in 2016.

We have two sons, Norman Jr. and Daryl, who both live in Juneau, five grandchildren who all but one lives in Juneau, and three great grandchildren all here in Juneau with one more due in 2016. I am very proud of the fact that it makes us a 7th generation Juneau family.

I graduated from the last class at Juneau High School in 1955. The next year the Douglas High School merged with the Juneau school system becoming the Juneau-Douglas High School. I went to work the day after graduation with the U.S. Forest Service. We married young and had our two sons shortly after that. I continued to work until retirement in the late-1970s.

I was interested in doing my family genealogy and got started after retirement. After documenting my family, I became interested in searching and indexing the Daily Alaska Empire, which has since become the present Juneau Empire. I found several articles about my family in doing this project. I started with the year 1916, the year my Mother's family arrived in the Juneau area, settling at Treadwell where my family worked for the mine. In the beginning of this project my goal for completion was my birth year, 1936. I made it! It took me about 15 years to publish the paper volumes of all this data.

My friend and classmate, Mike Blackwell, always encouraged me to make all this data digital for easier access by the interested public. Well, with Mike's help, we got it done and now all my work and research have become "Digital Betty." Thank you so much Mike for the shove I needed. It couldn't have happened without your input.

— Betty West Miller



School Portrait of Betty (West) Miller, photography taken by Joseph Alexander. Transferred from the ASHL, JDCM 2013.10.00084B.