

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Blair, Helen D.

Papers of Helen D. Blair, 1938-1973

MS 4-4-13

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated to the library in the Fall of 1978 by Helen D. Blair of Clarksdale, Arizona. Photographs form a separate collection, PCA 152 (Acc. No. 1978-021).

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: Items were numbered. They have been placed in mylar, into a pH-neutral folder, and housed in an acid-free container.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Helen Smith came to Alaska in 1936 to teach school. She married George Blair and lived in Alaska from 1936-1966. George Blair of Talkeetna was a trapper and big game guide. Many of the slides show hunting and mining activity in the Talkeetna area and across the Susitna River where he had claims on Dutch Creek in the foothills of Mount McKinley. There are views of people, scenics, activities, etc. at Talkeetna, Hope, Fairbanks, Valdez, Chitina, Nome, etc. George Blair died in 1952 in Juneau, where he is buried.

Helen Blair taught in a number of villages, and the collection includes photographs taken by her of the schools and children at Aniak, Fort Yukon, Glennallen, Crooked Creek, and other locations.

Images form a separate collection, PCA 152.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Includes correspondence, manuscripts, poems, newspaper clippings and photographs. Correspondents include: Marie Drake, Father F.M. Menager, James Ryan, Margaret Harrais, Gov. Ernest Gruening, Lurline Wilkins, C. "Rusty" Huerlin, and others.

INVENTORY

Letters received by Helen (Smith) Blair.

- 1-3 Marie Drake, Juneau to Helen Smith at Crooked Creek, Alaska.
3 letters. December 2, 1938; undated; October 21, 1938.
- 4-9 Father F.M. Menager, S.J. Holy Cross Mission to Helen Blair at Talkeetna.
dated February 18, 1951.
January 3, 1941; July 16, 1941; March 18, 1941; March 18, 1946; undated.
- 10 James C. Ryan, Commissioner of Education; Juneau to Helen Blair at Talkeetna.
dated February 18, 1951.
Thank-you for her letter following his planned resignation.
- 11-13 Margaret Harrais, Valdez to Helen Blair at Healy Fork and North Pole, Alaska.
- 14-18 Ernest Gruening, Governor of Alaska at Juneau to Helen Smith, Fort Yukon and Glenallen.
5 letters. March 30, 1943; May 12, 1943; March 23, 1944; April 17, 1944; November 15, 1945.
- 19-20 Jane E. Horsefall, Office of Naval Procurement, Seattle to Helen Smith at Fort Yukon.

- 21 Hertha N. Baker Secretary of MIDNIGHT SUN Chapter no. 6 order EASTERN STAR, Fairbanks to Helen Smith
1 letter February 10, 1945.
Elected to receive degrees of the order.
- 22 Christmas card from B. Frank Heintzleman, Governor of Alaska.
- 23 Edward W. Moore, Commander at Eielson Air Force Base to Helen Blair, . Juneau. 1 letter. April 11, 1952.
Thanking Mrs. Blair for giving the dog team and equipment to the military.
- 24 Lurline Wilkins, Seward to Helen Blair.
1 letter. December 1973,
Christmas form letter (3 pp.) with personal note.

Letters written by Helen (Smith) Blair.

- 25 Letter to Dr. James Ryan (Juneau) from Helen Smith, Healy.
1 letter. November 17, 1944.
Describes events which led her to shoot a native man in the leg who threatened a physical attack.

Letters received by George Blair.

- 26 Nora and Chester, Reed Point, Montana.
1 letter July 25, 1935
- 27-28 "C. Rusty" Huerlin, Barrow to George at Talkeetna, Alaska. 2 letters November 25, 1944 and March 6, 1945.
Describes building an ice coral for 27 reindeer roping and branding; tells experiences on a whale hunt; Eskimo dance, sends George information on work possibilities as Barrow.

Miscellaneous-manuscripts-poetry and newspaper clippings.

- 29 IN A CABIN AT THE EDGE OF THE BARRENS, by George Blair. (1940) 2 p. This manuscript provides a description of the Aurora Borealis.
A May 1950 ALASKA SPORTSMAN reference of George Blair is with the article.
- 30 UNDER THE STAR, by George Blair n.d. 11 p.
This manuscript describes George's trip from Nevada to Alaska, travel on the vessel Yukon up the inland passage, Katalla, Cordova Valdez, Anchorage, Talkeetna.
- 31 SOUTHBOUND, by Helen D. Blair 1 p. Poem.
- 32 TALKEETNA ALASKA, BY Isabelle Lee Braaten, Poem.
- 33-37 Newspaper clipping about death of Margaret Harrais as Valdez in 1962 and Eielson newspaper MULE 26 POST, with photo of dogs.