

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Ballard, Charles A.

Nome Diary, 1900-1905

MS 4 -11-16

1 folder
1/2"

Processed By: Marilyn Kwock
June 1993

ACQUISITION: Two photocopies of the 17-1/2 x 10-1/2" diary were obtained from Mrs. John D. Ballard and Margaret C. Ballard of Sitka, Alaska, in May 1993.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. PHOTOCOPYING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE PERMISSION TO PUBLISH.

PROCESSING: No organization was necessary.

Introduction

The author (see below) was born October 16, 1851. He left his home in Portland, Oregon, to prospect in Alaska in May 1900. The diary recounts their adventurous but unproductive explorations along the Nushagak River. He returned home, probably to Portland, in October.

Other diary notes were made on a one month visit to Fort Simpson, B.C., Canada, in 1903.

The diary was donated as having belonged to Dr. Charles A. Ballard. However, the cover inscription is that of Eugene D. White. The diary mentions 'Doc' in the third person (see July 18 and August, 1900), leaving authorship questionable. The handwritten notes can be difficult to read. There are several line sketches. The photocopy consists of 44 p. The diary itself consisted of 167 p.

Contents

[British Columbia diary, October 17-November 15, 1903], 68 p.

Notes on a visit to Fort Simpson, British Columbia, Canada, where White did some hunting and photography. Includes notes on B.C. canneries, settlements, prices. The talk about town speculated upon the end of the Y.T.P. telegraph line, possibly to be within 15 miles of Fort Simpson. Mr. White returned by steamer to Victoria, Vancouver Island, B.C.

June 1905, hotel rates (3 p.)

[Alaska diary, May 16-November 1, 1900], approx. 96 p.

- May 16 Left Portland, Oregon, for Seattle, then Nome, Alaska, with Mr's. S. T. Jeffreys, Gorman, Lynch, Tracy, Martin, and Harper.
- May 20 Left Seattle on Pacific Coast Steamship Co. steamer for Alaska
- June 7 Turned back by ice; arrived in Dutch Harbor. Is ill.
- June 14 Arrived in Nome
- July 18 Trip with Dr. C. A. Ballard and Ben Hendrick (prospector); couldn't make it to Golovin Bay/Council City, so went to Rodney Mt. to investigate a quartz lode. Sick "Indians."
- July 31 Left for Bristol Bay on Str. EDITH with Dr. C.A. Ballard (St. Paul, MN), T. Callahan (Ruthdrum?, ID), Ralph D. Ingram (Portland, OR), and A. C. Carpenter (Tacoma, WA).
- August 6 Arrived at mouth of Nushagak River; heading for Bradford's cannery (Alaska Packer's Assoc.).

- August 9 Party splits up, Eberle & Dillow head to Lake Clark/Iliamna to winter. Others, including White, go down to the Egashik (Igushik) River drainage to look for gold. Plan to winter in Lake Clark area.
- August 16 Having found no colors (since it is volcanic) and dampened by heavy rain, they head back toward Nushagak.
- August 23 Up til now, the party has been more successful than most in retaining most of their gear and high spirits; they are camping near Nushagak. Talks about the canneries along the Nushagak River (Clark's, Astoria Packing Co., Pacific Steam Whaling Assoc., Rolf's cannery, salting station, Bradford's cannery, Scandinavian cannery). To Clark cannery.
- August 24 White and "Doc" decide to winter in Nome after disagreements with a party member. The rest are heading to Dutch Harbor. High winds cause them to miss the CASCO at Bradford's cannery, but in a few hours the winds stop the ship and they are able to board. White & Doc walk 14 miles for a bath at Bradford cannery.
- August 26 History of the CASCO. Captain J. W. Nicholson.
- August 31 Held up by storm, finally heading into Bristol Bay.
- Sept. 7-8 Becalmed near Sledge Island.
- Sept. 9 Nome.
- Oct. 15 Heading home on the U.S.A.T. LAWTON.
- Oct. 16 His 49th birthday.
- List of photographs taken (not included with the collection).
- November 1, 1900 Arrived at Portland

Addresses, poems/verses.

EDITH officers, list of Masons on board (July 31, 1900 sailing).

Gear list

CASCO history notes