

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Gile, Gibson H., 1914-1971**

**Gibson H. Gile Papers, 1943**

**MS 126**

1 box  
0.3 linear ft.

Processed By: Kathryn H. Shelton  
May 1992

**ACQUISITION:** The Gile Papers were purchased from Mrs. Gibson H. Gile by the Library in May 1992. (Accession # 92-9).

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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

**PROCESSING:** The papers are typescripts and photocopies of letters received from Mr. Gile; the order in which they were received has been maintained.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Gibson H. Gile was born December 4, 1914, in Merrilan, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school in 1932, he went to work for his father, owner of the Gile Publishing Company and the Gile Insurance Agency. He was an accountant for the Federal Land Bank in Chippewa Fall, Wisconsin, in 1936 when he married Eleanor Austin. They had two daughters before World War II, and a son in 1952. In 1943, he worked as a bookkeeper and time keeper for E.G. Elliot Company, one of the companies building the Alaska-Canadian Highway (or Alcan). During the spring and summer of 1943 he

was based at Kluane Lake in the Yukon, where he wrote 164 letters home. He served in the Army in the later part of the war, returning to Wisconsin to continue in the family business. Gibson Gile died September 24, 1972.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers are comprised of typescripts of 164 letters written by Mr. Gile to his family in 1943 while he worked as a bookkeeper and timekeeper in the Yukon for the E. G. Elliot Company, one of several contractors building the Alcan. The letters reflect the routine of being a general worker on the project, but also mirror the concerns of a person far from home in a rugged wilderness during World War II. The papers also include typescripts of his journal, with short daily notations, and 31 copyprints of snapshots taken at the camps.

### BOX DESCRIPTION

#### 1 BOX

- Folder 1: Introduction (author unknown): 2 l,
- Folder 2: Letters, March 1943 (#1 - #39)
- Folder 3: Letters, April - May 1943 (#40 - #89)
- Folder 4: Letters, June - July 1943 (#90 - #141)
- Folder 5: Letters, August - September 1943 (#142 - #164)
- Folder 6: Journal, February - September 1943; two travel and employment records
- Folder 7: Photographs (copies), #1 - #31