

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Thurman Paul McCollister, 1885 - 1963

Papers of Thurman Paul McCollister, White Mountain, Alaska, 1925-1929

MS 139

1 notebook, 20 photographs
2 linear inches.

Processed By: Kay Shelton
August, 1994

Provenance: A friend of Mr. McCollister donated the papers to the library in 1994.

Access: The collection is unrestricted.

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

Processing: Photographs were removed from original black scrapbook pages.
Six poor quality or damaged photographs were discarded.

BIOGRAPHIC NOTE

Thurman Paul McCollister, was born in Danville, Virginia, on March 28, 1885, and graduated from the local high school in 1899. After graduating from New Mexico Normal University in 1924, he taught woodworking and industrial education for the Northern District of the U.S. Bureau of Education and was stationed at the Native American boarding school in White Mountain, Alaska from 1925 through 1929. During his time there, he developed a very extensive dictionary for Inupiaq. Mr. McCollister left Alaska in 1929 and went on to teach in Texas and New Mexico. He died in Roswell, New Mexico on September 3, 1963.

COPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers consist of one medium, three-ring notebook dictionary, arranged alphabetically by English word or terms followed by Inupiaq expression or word, phonetically rendered. Some special and/or related terms are grouped at the end of the volume. One final page is a "List of School Children at Council, 1912". The twenty photographs include views of White Mountain and Council, Alaska, the graduating classes of 1928 and 1929, and Mr. McCollister and other U.S. Government educators.

Inventory

Folder 1: Notebook (19 cm x 13.5 cm): handwritten dictionary of English-Inupiaq, designed and compiled by T.P. McCollister.

Folder 2: Photocopy of notebook in folder 1.

Folder 3: Photographs Folder (black & white)

1. Hospital. White Mt.
2. Girls dormitory White Mt.
3. Site of destroyed school bldg.
4. Hospital.
5. R(?)ed Walker & Range.
6. First engine govt. R. R. Alaska at Fairbanks.
7. Famous lead dog "Sookie." Offer of \$850.00 refused. Leonard Seppala owner.
8. Mr. Andrews, U.S. Govt. School. [Verso: Hard (?) looking citizen]
9. Brower's Station, Barrow, Alaska. Farthest point North, American Territory. [Verso: The station at Pt. barrow, now Brower Trading Post. The most northerly point on the North American Continent. Stamped "Photo by C.L. Andrews, Seattle, Wash,"]
10. Children jumping spring board.
11. U.S. govt. launch "Successor."
12. Freighting to Council.

13. Boys dormitory in construction.
14. This is the first group boarding pupils at U.S. Govt. School White Mountain. Coming from as far north as Pt. Barrow and south to a point 400 miles up the Yukon river from St. Michael. A typical cross section of the most intelligent Esquimaux people. [Verso: Mr. & Mrs. McCollister, compliments, C.L. Andrews.]
15. (The first Eskimo class to have ever completed the 8 grammar grades.) First graduating class 1928, U. S. Govt School, White Mt., Alaska.
16. Second graduating class, U.S. Govt. School, White Mt. Aka, 1929.
17. Mr. Burlingame.
18. T. P. McCollister: Myself standing on spot on Bull Run battlefield where Gen. Stonewall Jackson commanded. [Verso: T.P.McMollister.]
19. T. P. McCollister.
20. Creatie standing at pear tree, Winchester, Va. Planted by Geo Washington during Braddock's camping.