

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Martin, DeLoss K., 1892-1968

DeLoss K. Martin Collection, 1916-1990

MS 209

2 boxes
1.6 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
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Revised by: Anastasia Tarmann
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ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Frances H. Martin, wife of DeLoss K. Martin and Gene C. Martin, his son, June 1996 (Acc. No. 1996-18) and April 2003 (Acc. No. 2003-22).

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: Materials were arranged by the donor. Alaska State Museum curator tested poly-vu covers used by donor; negative test assured preservation-quality storage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

DeLoss K. Martin was born in 1892 and graduated from Polytechnic College of Engineering at Oakland CA with a B.S. degree. He went to Alaska for the Alaska Packers Association where he assisted with the installation and operation of their radio facilities. During World War I he served as an Ensign with the U.S. Navy and then joined the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, where he worked in development and research in many aspects of radio, communications, air traffic control and microwave transmission. After retiring in 1952, he worked for the Air Navigation Development Board in Washington, D.C.

Martin was 24 years old when he departed San Francisco on the steamship *Nushagak*. He served as radio operator on the vessel and for the Alaska Packers Association's Nushagak Cannery in Bristol Bay during the summer of 1916. He recounts his experiences on board the ship and observations while working at the cannery. At the end of his account concerning the cannery, he lists an experienced miner's outfit for one year, since he planned to stay over the winter. On August 27, 1916, after the last packers' boats left, he helped close the cannery. The second section of the log tells of his trip up the Nushagak River, spending over three months near the village of Koliganek before returning to Dillingham at the end of January 1917. He describes his subsistence life style and his visits with people of the region. DeLoss K. Martin died in 1968.

[More biographical information is available in *The Log of an Alaskan El Dorado Seeker*, Addendum, by Gene C. Martin, after p. 36b, located in Box 2, Folder 8]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection includes original diaries of DeLoss Kellogg Martin in the Nushagak region, ca. 1916-1918, a typescript of a holograph log, *The Nushagak Story*, *The Eldorado Journal*, and *The Log of An Alaskan El Dorado Seeker*. It also includes correspondence, maps, clippings, publications, salmon can labels, and images, ca. 1916-1965. Subjects include: Alaska Packers Association, early radio in Alaska, and canneries in the Bristol Bay Region. Places include: Dillingham, Nushagak River Region - Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwak or Ekwok.

INVENTORY

Box 1

1. Black 3 Ring Binder

Introduction [empty]

- Nushagak: *The Log of an Alaskan El Dorado Seeker, Part I*, by DeLoss Kellogg Martin (p. 1-27), transcribed by Gene C. Martin. Supply list to APA (1916). Salmon can labels. Ad for *Star of India* book.
- El Dorado: *The Log of an Alaskan El Dorado Seeker, Part II*. Photocopies of photographs.
- Grandma Letter: Written by D.K.M. to his grandmother after his return from the winter trip up the Nushagak River, 3/30/1917, Gene C. Martin plans for Alaska journal, copy 2 of Grandma letter.
- Followup: Correspondence sent/received by D.K.M. Correspondents include: Oldman Petla (Koliganek), Nicholai Tageon (Koliganek), James H. Chenoweth (Chief Deputy Marshal, Anchorage), Charles H. Nelson (Koliganek), Robert Bennett (BIA, Juneau), Katherine Petla (Koliganek and New Stuyahok), William Hurley (Ekwak), Lee D. Jones (Ekwak) - 1957-1965.
- Some discussion about an Indian [sic] named Klutok [Clu-Tark] who killed a white man, a government officer, in 1927.

Box 2

2. Daily logs of D.K.M. [3 original logbooks]
 - 1916 (2): The Nushagak Story begins April 1916-February 1917
 - 1967: "The Turn Around," 2/7/1967 [recollections on why he changed his mind about becoming an engineer in Alaska]
3. Folder - Correspondence
 - Correspondence inventory by Gene C. Martin, original letter to Grandma, camp sketches, weather chart, clippings and photographs included in letters.
4. Folder - Clippings
 - Clippings on tools, equipment, and review of *Miracle in Alaska* by Thelma Thompson Slayden
5. Folder - *Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts of Alaska, 1966*
6. Folder - D.K.M.'s Alaska Story
 - Photocopy of handwritten log, Part I - The Nushagak Story
 - Photocopy of *The Log of an Alaskan El Dorado Seeker (El Dorado Journal)*, typed

7. Folder – D.K.M.'s Alaska Story (see 3-ring binder [item #1])

Transcribed copies of D.K.M.'s Journal, Parts I & II, transcribed by Gene C. Martin, 1990

8. *The Log of an Alaskan El Dorado Seeker* by DeLoss Kellogg Martin, transcribed and with a personal addendum by Gene C. Martin, copyright 1990

9. Folder – Photographs

- 1-39 List of Alaska Journal photos and negatives [some missing, not received]
- 40-48 Mostly Alaska native people and life
- 49-50 Village scenes probably Equag-a-mute [E-ko-go-mute], probably part of El Dorado Journal [G.C.M.]
- 51-54 Dillingham – PHJ Cannery [Otto Larson General Merchandise]
- 55-58 Sled dogs
- 59 DeLoss K. Martin in snow at PHJ
- 60 Mechanical parts
- 61-67 Vessels, motor and sailing, kayaks
- 68 Native Alaskan family
- 69 [Slide] – 3 men seated – [same as #41]
- 70-74 [Slides] – Alaska natives
- 75-82 [Colored photos] – Alaskan Natives – [#75 & #76 are copies of slides #73 & #74]

10. Folder – Negatives

- 1-68 To accompany photographs in Folder 9 with same numbers [some missing, not received]

11. Folder – Negatives

- Series 1: [7 negatives] – NC [Nushagak Cannery] area, Dillingham, Clarks Point
- Series 2: [10 negatives] – PHJ Cannery area, mostly fishing boats and ships
- Series 3: [17 negatives] – PHJ Cannery area, buildings, wireless, 1916-1917
- Series 4: [8 negatives] – PHJ Cannery area, mostly people (Caucasians)
- Series 5: [8 negatives] – PHJ area, land, and sea
- Series 6: [5 negatives] – Alaska natives
- Series 7: [3 negatives] – Sled dogs
- Series 8: [4 negatives] – Boats, kayaks, includes Nushagak (Steamship)
- Series 9: [4 negatives] – DeLoss K. Martin, ca. 1960s and other family members?