

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Gair, Catherine Frances "Kitty" Smulling

Kitty Gair Collection, ca. 1880 - 2002, bulk ca. 1930s-1980s

MS 284

6 boxes
Personal, professional,
and original manuscript papers

Processed by: Amelia Jenkins and
Laura Wood, Jan. 2004
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ACQUISITION: Contents of Box 1 were donated by Helen D. Beirne in December of 2003, as part of Acc. no. 2004-003. Contents of Box 2-6 were transferred from the Archives and Manuscripts Department of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Acc. no. 2014-018. There is no provenance on this material. The collection may have arrived with the Helen Dittman Beirne papers.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. All items placed into pH-neutral folders and archival boxes.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Catherine "Kitty" Frances Gair (nee, Smulling) was born Nov. 4, 1912, in Altoona, PA. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1934, she received a Public Health Nurse Certificate in 1939. She earned a B.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943, and a Master of Science in Child Psychiatric Nursing from Boston University in 1963.

Catherine Smulling came to Alaska in 1942 and served as a public health nurse for the Alaska Health Dept. from 1942-1945. She worked from 1946 to 1951 on the Alaska Territorial Health Department vessel, *M/V Hygiene*, providing health care to Alaskan coastal villages. She worked at the Juneau Health Center from 1951 to 1954 and part time at the Alaska Native Health Service. Gair was a school nurse in Juneau from 1964-1971, retiring in 1971. She was a member of the Alaska State Hospital Advisory Board, member and president of the Juneau Hospital Board, member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism, President of the Alaska Nurses Association, District III, board member, secretary, vice president and then president of the Alaska Nurses Association, treasurer and secretary of the Mt. Juneau Chapter, National Society Daughters of American Revolution and Worthy Matron, Nugget Chapter 2, Order of Eastern Star.

She co-wrote *Alaska's Search for a Killer: 1946 -1948 A Seafaring Medical Adventure* describing the experience of working on the *Hygiene*. From 1969 to 1972 she edited *Alaska Nurse*. She published articles in the *Alaska Nurse*, *Journal of School Health*, and the *Juneau Empire*. She died at her Wasilla home in 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Box 1: Acc no. 2004-003

The collection consists of **personal papers**. Biographical information, research notes, degrees, certificates, licenses, awards, recognitions, memberships, family and medical papers.

Box 2 - 6 Acc no. 2014-018

Professional papers; undated, 1945-1991. 0.3 cubic feet.

(Originally Series 1 of UAA collection)

This series contains the professional papers of Catherine Gair. Included are materials she collected during her time on the *M/S Hygiene*, such as ship itineraries, worker's reports, various descriptions of job duties, and Gair's own journal entries. The series also includes professional correspondence, including Gair's resignation letter to C. Earl Albrecht due to the conditions on the *M/S Hygiene*, as well as Department of Health

photographs taken during Gair's time on the M/S *Hygiene*. The series also contains the records related to the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Nurses' Association and its history.

Personal papers; undated, 1946-1996. 0.25 cubic feet.

(Originally Series 2 of UAA collection)

This series contains the personal papers of Catherine Gair. A majority of the records are correspondence, however the series also includes the files, reports, and memoirs of two of Gair's acquaintances who were also public health nurses in Alaska.

Alaska's Search for a Killer manuscript; circa 1995. 1.0-cubic feet

(Originally Series 4 of UAA collection)

This series contains the manuscript and drafts of Alaska's Search for a Killer, written by Susan Meredith, with Kitty Gair and Elaine Schwinge.

INVENTORY

BOX 1

Personal papers. Biographical information, research notes, degrees, certificates, licenses, awards, recognitions, memberships, family and medical papers.

Folder 1 1927-1960

Folder 2 1961-1973

Folder 3 ca.1973 - 2002

Folder 4 Angus Campbell Gair, 1913-1977.

Folder 5 Alexander and Annie Gair, 1880-1953.

Folder 6 **Items located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault**

1. Diploma - Royal Arch Degree of Free Masonry for Alexander Gair; 10th day of February AD 1908
2. Marriage Certificate - Alexander Gair and Annie Campbell; First day of July in the year of our Lord 1910
3. Certificate of Membership - The Fraternal Order of Eagles - Alexander Gair; June 1, 1931
4. Certificate of Baptism - Angus Campbell Gair; 29th day of September 1913
5. Bureau of Mines Certificate of First-Aid Training - Angus Gair; 1939
6. Diploma - Altoona High School - Catherine Frances Smulling; Fourth day of June 1929
7. Certificate - The Jefferson Medical College Hospital - Catherine F. Smulling; September 27, 1933
8. Certificate upon retirement - The Alaska Education Association - Catherine Gair
9. [Picture of President George H.W. Bush and little girl in White House] To Mrs. Gair, Thank you for all you've done...; June 8, 1992

BOX 2**Professional papers; undated, 1945-1991.** (Originally Series 1 of UAA collection)

Folder	Description	Dates
7	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : History and ship details	Undated
8	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Vision test results: restricted	1946
9	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Community statistical health analysis	1946
10	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Inventory of medicines aboard ship	1946 May
11	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Summary of duties performed on ship	circa 1946-1950
12	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Catherine Gair journal entries	1946-1947
13	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Catherine Gair letter and journal excerpts	circa 1947
14	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Nurse's reports	1946-1951
15	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Dental narrative reports	1947-1951
16	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Doctor's narrative reports	1946-1951
17	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Ship itineraries	1945-1950
18	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Alaska Health Merit System classification questionnaire	1950
19	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Wedding description: Captain Haugen and Ruth Tyler	circa 1950
20	<i>MIS Hygiene</i> : Correspondence: Dorothy Whitney, Director of Division of Nursing	1947-1951
21	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Correspondence: C. Earl Albrecht, Commissioner of Health 1951	1946, 1949-
22	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Correspondence: general	
23	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : News articles and clippings	1946-1965
24	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Articles and drafts written by Gair	1947-1956
25	<i>M/S Hygiene</i> : Diary and reports of Elaine Schwinge	1947, undated
26	Alaska Nurse's Association: History, districts, and officer lists	1952-1977
27	Alaska Nurse's Association: President reports	1953, 1957-1960
28	Alaska Nurse's Association: Summary of changes in Alaska nursing legislation	1991
29	Alaska Nurse's Association: Gair's history on the Nurse's Association and speech notes	Undated
30	Alaska Nurse's Association: 50th anniversary conference: speech notes	1991
31	Alaska Nurse's Association: 50th anniversary conference: Correspondence and speech	1991
32	Alaska Nurse's Association: Conference notes	Undated
33	Alaska Nurse's Association: History of nursing in Alaska	Undated
34	Department of Health: Member list	1945
35	Department of Health: Photographs	circa 1959
36	History of Alaska public health	circa 1990
37	Gair's research on health in Alaska	circa 1950

Personal papers; undated, 1946-1996. (Originally Series 2 of UAA collection)

Folder	Description	Dates
38	Elaine Ruggiero (nee Schwinge): files and reports	1949-1990
39	Memoirs of Naomi Fox: Alaskan Frontier Nurse	circa 1995

40	Gus Gair: Narrative and journals	undated
41	Correspondence: Family	1946

BOX 3**Personal papers; undated, 1946-1996. (Cont'd)** *(Originally Series 2 of UAA collection)*

Folder	Description	Dates
42	Correspondence: family	1946-1949
43	Correspondence: "Alaska's Lifeboat" film	1949-1950
44	Correspondence: C. Earl Albrecht	1987-1992
45	Correspondence: Susan Meredith, and Elaine Schwinge	1986-1996
46	Correspondence: Rasmuson Library	1991-1992, 1995
47	Correspondence: general	1960, 1980- 1991
48	<i>Alaska's Land and People</i> draft	circa 1992
49	Essays and poems	undated

BOX 4**Alaska's Search for a Killer manuscript; circa 1995.** *(Originally Series 4 of UAA collection)*

Folder	Description	Dates
50	Albrecht's forward	circa 1995
51	Susan Meredith introduction	
52	Prologue to manuscript	
53	Personal prologue; pp 1-57, first draft	6-25-89
54	Alaska Through a Porthole Manuscript, 1988	1988-89
55	Alaska Through a Porthole	
56	Alaska Through a Porthole by C. Gair; p. 1-28	
57	Catherine Gair – Porthole; p. 29-63	
58	Alaska Through a Porthole; Susan's start outlined	
59	Alaska Through a Porthole partial manuscript	
60	Outline & misc. draft pages	
61	Nursing in Alaska manuscripts	
62	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; outline to p. 125 (1 of 4)	
63	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; p. 126-250 (2 of 4)	

BOX 5**Alaska's Search for a Killer manuscript; circa 1995.** *(Originally Series 4 of UAA collection)*

Folder	Description	Dates
64	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; p. 251-375 (3 of 4)	
65	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; p. 376-511 (4 of 4)	
66	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; Title to p. 125 (1 of 3)	
67	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; p. 126-250 (2 of 3)	
68	Alaskan Odyssey manuscript; p. 251-329 (3 of 3)	
69	<i>Hygiene</i> manuscript; p. 1-200 (1 of 3)	

70	<i>Hygiene</i> manuscript; p. 201-400 (2 of 3)	
71	<i>Hygiene</i> manuscript; p. 401-494 (3 of 3)	

BOX 6**Alaska's Search for a Killer manuscript; circa 1995.** *(Originally Series 4 of UAA collection)*

Folder	Description	Dates
72	Partial manuscript; p. 58-257 (1 of 2)	
73	Partial manuscript; p. 258-471 (2 of 2)	
74	Partial manuscript; Mar. 1989; p. 1-54	
75	Partial manuscript; Jan. 1989; p. 52-119	
76	Partial manuscript; p. 19-78	
77	Partial manuscript; p. 82-100, 164-175	
78	Partial manuscript; p. 1-98	
79	Partial manuscript; p. 1-47	
80	Partial manuscript; p.80-171	
81	Partial manuscript; Dec. 1988; p. 1-108	
82	Early Draft (1 of 2)	
83	Early Draft (2 of 2)	