

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Winter And Pond Company, Photographers

**Winter and Pond photograph collection, 1934
Trail of '98 - thirty-six years ago. 1934**

PCA 021

1 album
62 photographs: b&w ; 18 x 30 cm

Processed By: Staff

INTRODUCTION

The photographs in this album, published by the Winter and Pond Company in 1934, depict life on the Trail of '98, the famous Klondike Gold Rush Trail from Skagway to Whitehorse over the Chilkoot Trail. The following is their introduction to the album:

THE TRAIL OF '98 - THIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO

THE TRAIL OF '98, thirty-six years ago, portrayed in rare and original photographs direct from life by Lloyd V. Winter and E. P. Pond, is still a path of wild charm singularly beautiful in its historical appeal. These striking pictures take you back at the almost forgotten beginning of a drama to which the future of Alaska. is intimately linked.

THE TRAIL OF '98 belongs to the prologue. Following the sensational discovery of placer gold in Klondike Territory, and culminating in one of the most picturesque gold rushes of modern times over that arduous trail, it holds the opening note. Physically and spiritually it remains today where the stampede started, of all trails apparently the least altered by the inevitable changes it set in motion. Winter and Pond photographs of that dimming period afford an easy means to recapture the lost mood of thirty-six years ago, a delightful way to reconstruct the first episode-THE TRAIL OF '98-which in the retrospect of 1931 appears more pregnant than at any time since those intrepid pioneers, nourished on the yeasty word "gold," trekked into an untouched, primeval wilderness in quest of "pay streaks" that were still dreams.

THE TRAIL OF '98 was a meeting place of the incongruous and more excitingly beautiful in its incongruity than the most harmonized ensemble. The photographs of that feverish stampede to the new bonanza are a perfect exhibit of man's courage and perseverance reduced to its crudest terms. No search of detail here. Each picture is crammed. with reality which reinforces every turn of the photographic record itself.

History chose this setting for the prologue to the northern trend of empire because all the elements of national expansion were here-the same paradoxical elements that are lying around in larger quantities in more important places.

That is why Winter and Pond photographs of the real TRAIL OF '98 are so poignantly suggestive.

WINTER & POND COMPANY,
Juneau, Alaska

HISTORICAL NOTE

Lloyd Valentine Winter (1866-1945) and Edwin Percy Pond (1872-1943), of the firm Winter & Pond, were prominent Alaskan photographers. In 1893, Winter came to Juneau from San Francisco and entered a partnership with George M. Landerkin, known as Landerkin and Winter. In 1894, his long time friend E.P. Pond bought out Landerkin.

Winter & Pond operated their Juneau-based curio and photography studio for over 50 years and provided local residents and visitors with a rich perspective of Alaska that is now considered a unique reflection of the state in the early 20th century. This partnership continued until Pond's death at age 71 in 1943. In 1945, two years after the death of E.P. Pond, Lloyd Winter turned the business over to Francis Harrison, who maintained the Winter & Pond Co. until it closed in 1956. [*Portions from PCA 87.*] Other Winter and Pond collections include PCA 87, PCA 117, PCA 287.

INVENTORY

0. Preparing-for the trail prospectors outfitting in Juneau, Alaska, 1898, in response to the magic word "Klondike."
1. On to the Golden Klondike! Miners departing from Juneau for the great gold strike in Yukon Territory.
2. Skagway, Alaska, springing into life on the trail of '98; destined to be the transfer point into the far reaches of the Yukon.
3. Stampeders landing mining equipment and supplies on the beach at Skagway enroute to the Yukon, 1898.
4. More arrivals at Skagway surging northward at the call of gold, 1898.
5. Day after day they came ready to face the great adventure on the Trail of '98.
6. Gold seekers in camp at Skagway preparing for the overland journey to the far away Yukon, 1898.
7. Completion of the first bridge over Skagway River on the Trail of '98.
8. Klondike miners and outfits landing on the rocks near Dyea, Alaska, enroute to the Yukon, 1898.
9. Gold seekers packing on the trail through the canyon near Skagway, 1898.
10. Yukoners resting in camp after a prolonged march on the trail to the Yukon, 1898.

11. Supplies and mining equipment in tremendous quantities moves daily over the trail. Klondike outfits near Dyea, 1898.
12. Necessity transformed countless obstacles to stepping stones. A jaunting car constructed on the trail serving transportation needs, 1898.
13. Energy and vigor marked the character of the thousands who surged into the Yukon. Note the family rocker accompanying the mother and her child on the trail, 1898.
14. The camaraderie of the trail; life among the stampeders in Dyea Canyon, 1898.
15. L. V. Winter, photographer, (central image in the picture), with cameras and outfit crossing Dyea River to the next point of interest on the trail, 1898.
16. Gold seekers breaking camp at the mouth of the canyon near Dyea enroute to the Klondike gold fields, 1898.
17. The free-masonry of a common, glorified experience; with Yukoners at lunch on the trail in Dyea Valley, 1898.
18. Camp of Yukoners near Dyea Canyon, 1898. Note the scanty, wind-blown foliage crusted with snow affording little wood for fuel and shelter.
19. Stampeders with their dog team and supplies on the trail near Stone House upon their way to the Klondike Bonanzas, 1898.
20. Children frequently accompanied their parents on the trail to the Yukon. Prospectors passing through Pleasant Valley, 1898
21. Miners and their Yukon dog team on the trail to scenes of mining in the Yukon, 1898.
22. Stampeders struggling over Devil's Portage in a canyon near Sheep Camp on the trail, 1898; above them snow; below depths of gloomy crevasses.
23. Prospectors crossing a portage near Pleasant Camp, 1898. Here and there gnarled and twisted foliage has driven its tenuous roots into the scarred face of the cliff.
24. Another view of ragged Dyea Canyon. On the trail near Pleasant Camp, 1898.
25. Gold seekers struggling with their outfits through a hazardous mountain pass on the trail to the Yukon, 1898.
26. Prospectors enroute to the Yukon climbing Jacob's Ladder, a portage on the trail in the canyon near Sheep Camp, 1898.
27. Negotiating a difficult passage in a precipitous canyon on the trail to the Yukon, 1898.
28. Gold seekers in a continuous procession threading their way over a difficult course of ever winding, snow-choked canyons on the trail to the Klondike, 1898.
29. Climbing steadily along the treacherous, iced brink chasms to the mountain pass enroute to the golden land of their hopes, 1898.
30. Over snow filled gorges, frozen cataracts, sweating, struggling with heavy loads the great army of gold seekers marched steadily on to the Yukon, 1898.
31. Mushing on with grim determination to reach the new bonanza, Yukoners on the trail between Sheep Camp and Dyea, 1898.
32. An every day scene on the narrow, mountainous trail: Sturdy oldtimers striving to reach their goal in the Yukon, 1898.
33. Stampeders resting at Sheep Camp. A fraternal band of brother adventurers on the trail, 1898.
34. Miners meeting at Sheep Camp, 1898. Trial of the camp thieves. Justice, swift and sure, was meted out to the few lawless characters who filtered in.
35. Another miners' meeting and trial of camp thieves, 1898. Contrary to colored tales, the trail was not violent. The whipping post for the guilty and banishment from camp was the law of the trail.

36. "Tramway" Pete, miner and prospector of the real stripe at camp, 1898. "Old age and no longer wanted" was not the economic philosophy of the North on the Trail of '98.
37. Yukoners on the trail in Pleasant Valley, 1898. Here is a notable example of the pioneering spirit of '98.
38. Gold seekers resting in camp on the trail to the Yukon, 1898.
39. Stampeders freighting on the trail at the height of the gold rush to the Klondike, 1898.
40. A grizzled old-timer with his outfit on the trail to the Golden Klondike, 1898. His joy is born of the fact that age had not conquered him. Note the talisman in his blouse pocket:
41. Rubbing shoulders daily with hardship, cheechako and old-timer alike pressed onward over steep, dangerous, snow-clad wastes to the Yukon. Nearing the summit of Chilkoot Pass, 1898.
42. Facing always the possibility of fragments breaking off some icecapped edge and starting avalanches above them the weary army of gold seekers toiled on to Chilkoot Pass, 1898.
43. Constantly fighting cold, hardship and fatigue, gold seekers enjoying a well earned rest on the snow-clad summit of Chilkoot Pass, 1898.
44. Raw reality at the upper end of Peterson's Tramway on Chilkoot Pass. Stampeders undergoing some grueling work transporting provisions over the ice-cold summit of the pass, 1898.
45. No place for weaklings here; endure the strain or fall out; that was the law of the trail. Gold seekers ascending the summit of Chilkoot Pass, 1898.
46. A view of the jagged, cloud-piercing peaks of Chilkoot Pass unrelieved by tree or shrub. Gold seekers surging upward and onward with renewed energy to the Golden Klondike, 1898.
47. A bird's eye view of Chilkoot Pass showing the camp teeming with life and excitement in 1898. Hostile nature ever challenging man's courage on the trail of '98.
48. The most spectacular scene on the Trail of '98. Yukoners standing the acid test of the wilderness ascending the summit of bleak, forbidding Chilkoot Pass, 1898.
49. Looking back on the trail from the summit of Chilkoot Pass, 1898. Sheer from sea-level rise huge masses of towering, storm-worn peaks, seamed and riven by a thousand tempests.
50. Gold seekers on the trail at Chilkoot Pass, 1898. Note the towering, snow-splashed cliffs enduring like guards at the upper entrance of the pass.
51. Hardy Yukoners on the trail at Crater Lake, 1898. Meeting conditions that make men masters of their fate.
52. Klondikers on the trail to the Yukon near the summit, 1898. Over ridge after ridge of knife-like hills and snow-choked ravines and valleys the trail led.
53. Through winter's desolation into the silent depths of the great Yukon district the gold seekers rushed with their heavy loads on the trail to the Klondike., 1898.
54. Stampeders entering Canadian territory, resting at a point nearly 3,000 feet above sea level. Note the crude monument and inscription marking the international boundary line.
55. Pioneers of Alaska, makers of history, bearing the stamp of "men" pausing with their heavy loads on the trail, 1898. What a noble example of unconquerable courage and hard work!
56. Yukoners on the trail, 1898, whipsawing lumber to make rafts, scows, and other manner of water craft in which to reach the golden land of their hopes.
57. Stampeders' food cache in the Yukon Valley on the trail, 1898.
58. A Yukon Indian's winter quarters in the Yukon Valley on the trail, 1898.

59. A typical shelter and food cache in the Yukon Valley on the trail, 1898, ready to afford rest and comfort for the weary traveler and prospector.
60. A supply base and food cache at the junction of Deadwood and Mastodon trails in the Yukon Valley, 1898.
61. A mining scene near the end of the trail. Stampeders placer-mining on Deadwood Gulch, Yukon Valley, 1898.
62. E. P. Pond, pioneer photographer of the North, who collaborated with V. Winter in picturizing the real trail of '98 in genuine photographs. Mr. Pond in camp on the trail, 1898.