

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Lomen Brothers

Lomen Brothers Photograph Collection, ca. 1903-1920

PCA 028

258 photographs: b&w

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Biographical Note

The five Lomen brothers, Carl Joys, Alfred Julian, Harry, George, and Ralph lived an active life in Nome in the early 20th century. They helped create a reindeer industry, outfitted the Norwegian explorer Raold Amundsen, and participated in the birth of bush aviation in Alaska.

Carl and his father, Judge G.J. Lomen of St. Paul, Minnesota, moved to Nome after vacationing there in the early 1900's. In 1903, the rest of the Lomen family joined them. The entire Lomen family, including his wife, Julie Joys Lomen, the five sons and one daughter, Helen, took part in civic affairs, followed prospecting and placer gold mining, and became interested in various commercial ventures. In 1908, the Lomen brothers bought a photograph studio and though they were equal partners, Alfred took most of the pictures. In 1935, he was hired to photograph the wreckage of Wiley Post and Will Rogers. The brothers purchased a drugstore in 1909.

In 1913, when Siberian reindeer were introduced to provide food and jobs for the Eskimos, the Lomens purchased rights to a reindeer herd and formed a corporation, Lomen and Co. By 1916, they were shipping meat to the states. They organized the Lomen Transportation Company to meet the problem of insufficient ocean refrigeration. The reindeer venture ended soon after the Great Depression, however, and in 1934, Congress took over the industry and outlawed ownership of reindeer by non-native peoples.

The Lomen brothers had purchased some of the studios and glass plate negatives of earlier Nome photographers, including B.B. Dobbs, Charles H. Milot, A.B. Kinne and F.H. Nowell. In September of 1934, a fire destroyed their business along with 25-30,000 negatives and 50,000 commercial prints. Approximately 3,000 negatives were salvaged. The Lomens never reopened their photography business. [From: *Alaska History*, Vol. 5, Spring, 1990, and The Lomen Brothers' Photographic Collection, Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Canada.]

Scope and Contents Note

This collection contains a broad coverage of northern Alaskan people and activities, including sled dogs and racing (the All Alaska Sweepstakes), arctic explorers, portraits of Eskimos, Eskimo hunters, Eskimo traditional activities, beach mining activities, Nome activities and businesses, reindeer herds and herders, and views of various Alaska towns.

The Glenbow-Alberta Institute, Calgary, Canada, acquired a large collection of Lomen photographs in 1956. A published inventory of that collection, *Lomen Brothers' Photographic Collection, Nome, Alaska, 1900-1935*, which includes more details of the Lomen family, is available in the Alaska State Library (TR653.G54 1968). The photographs in PCA 28 collection were renumbered, the original Lomen numbers are included in parentheses, whenever possible.

Inventory

1. [Portrait of Eskimo man, seated with legs crossed on floor. Tools all in his hands and lap] (No. 161)
2. Wegarick. [Eskimo woman with child on her back] (c. 1905 No. 17)
3. [Two Eskimo girls wearing cotton parkas] (No. 71)
4. [Portrait of Eskimo woman wearing fur parka] (c. 1904 No. 25)
5. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing fur parka. Full length view] c. 1903 (No. 23)
6. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing fur parka. White fur collar surrounds face. Close up view] c. 1904 (No. 69)
7. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing seal skin parka] c. 1903 (No. 21)
8. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing seal skin parka and fur pants. Full length view.] c. 1904 (No. 100)
9. [Portrait of Eskimo woman wearing fur parka. Full length view] c. 1907 (No. 22)
10. An Eskimo boy of Eastern Siberia [Portrait left profile. Band on arm] (No. 216)
11. [Portrait of three Eskimo men, wearing cloth parkas with fur hoods, standing one behind the other] (No. 226)

12. [Portrait of Eskimo woman wearing cotton parka. Close up view] c. 1903 (No. 57)
13. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing fur parka. Close up view] c. 1905 (No. 67)
14. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing dotted parka left profile. Man is holding a coil of ?] (c. 1905 No. 29)
15. [Portrait of Eskimo woman carrying a small child on shoulders] (No. 135)
16. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing fur parka. Close up view] (c. 1905 No. 15)
17. [Portrait of Eskimo man wearing fur parka, pants and boots. Full length view. Man is wearing parka hood and holds a long pole with a basket on the end] c. 1903 (No. 34)
18. [Portrait of Eskimo woman with extremely long, wavy hair] (No. 5)
19. [Portrait of Eskimo woman, wearing fur parka. A small child is carried on her back] (No. 134)
20. [Portrait of Eskimo boy wearing fur parka] (No. 7)
21. [Six Eskimo men wearing parkas with hoods, stand on snow covered ground]
22. [Two men wearing fur parkas stand on shore behind two one man kayaks] (No. 653)
23. [Portrait of Eskimo woman wearing, fur parka] (No. 157)
- 23a. [Portrait of Eskimo boy wearing fur parka, and holding a drum] c. 1905 (No. 66)
24. Siberian Yuit Women. [Eskimo woman wearing fur parka and standing in front of shelter] (No. 218)
25. A Yuit boy of Eastern Siberia. [Portrait of Eskimo boy, left profile, seated. Thin strap on left upper arm] (No. 217)
26. [Eskimo woman, wearing fur parka, seated on fur covered seat, surrounded by baskets] c. 1903 (No. 14)
27. Interior Eskimo Emi, Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. [Eskimo man seated between two Eskimo women] (No. 191)
28. [Four Eskimo women, wearing fur parkas, standing in front of boat on sandy beach] c. 1903 (No. 13)
29. The " Wolf Dance" of the Kaviagamutes -- Eskimo of Alaska. [Eskimos, some wearing masks, seated or standing in front of furs] (No. 174)

30. Eskimo Funeral-Neukluk rivers. [Men, women and children seated on rocky beach. Fish racks and fish drying in view] (No. 149)
31. Eskimo Dance [Eskimo men, seated in front of skin boat resting on one side, beat drums. One man dances, while another man and child look on.]
32. Eskimo Berry Pickers, Nome, Alaska. [Three women and two boys carrying bucketfuls of berries, standing in front of log and wood frame homes] (No. 6)
33. The Dancers. [Five dancers, with backs to camera, standing in front of fur draped from a wall.. Furs hand from straps across their backs] (No. 168)
34. The "Wolf Dance" of the Kaviagamutes Eskimo of Alaska. [Eskimos, some wearing wolf masks, sit on fur covered floor] (No. 179)
35. The Kirs-ga-uk-tuk (Big Dance) of the Kaviagamutes. ÷ The Alaska Eskimo in ceremonial costume. (No. 173)
36. [Two men wearing fur parkas, paddle their single kayaks in river between large chunks of ice] (No. 827)
37. Upper entrance to Eskimo "Eni" a cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. Baloney! [Tools and weapons in view on top of snow] (No. 127)
38. Fourth of July Parade, Nome, Alaska. 1911, Co's. "B" and "E" 16th Inf. U.S.A. Passing Reviewing Stand. [Lomen Brothers Photo Supply Shop in view] (No. 837)
- 38.a Fourth of July Parade, Nome, Alaska, 1911. Co's. "B" and "E" 16th Inf. U.S.A. passing Reviewing Stand. (No. 827) [Close up of view 38]
39. Landing at Nome, Alaska. [N.C.L. Co. Barge filled with passengers arrives on beach shore. Rocking chair baggage and supplies are in view] (No. 884)
40. Nome, Alaska. July 4th, 1915. [Parade scene]
41. Open Air Concert by 22nd Inf. 1910. Band U.S.A. Nome, Alaska, July.15th, [Large crowd assembled in front of the U.S. Life Saving Station]
42. Landing at Nome, Alaska. (same as view 39) (No. 884)
43. Landing Sheep at Nome, Alaska. [Barge with fence-lands at beach. Sheep walk down ramp onto sand]. (No. 710)
44. The surf at Nome Alaska. [Small open boat is helped to shore as waves crash along beach. Man with hat in center of photo, and steamer in back ground] (No. 774)
45. The Sphinx of Ophir near Council, Alaska. [Scenic view of rock formation] (No. 993)

46. On-The Water Wagon. Nome, Alaska [Men standing on horse drawn wagon in front of Hotel Sheldon]
47. F.O.E. No. 75 Memorial Service Decorations. Eagle Hall, Nome, Alaska, March 20th 1910. [Interior view]
48. The big storm. Nome Alaska 1913. [Flooded street with debris in view. Men walking in front of Lomen Brothers store and Hotel Sheldon]
49. The wreckage in the "Square", after the big storm. Nome, Alaska. 1913. [Piles of lumber and debris in front of Merchants Bank of Alaska]
50. East Front Street after the big storm, Nome, Alaska. 1913. [Debris and remains of buildings including Pacific Packing and Nay Co.]
51. Wreckage along Dry Creek after the big storm. Nome, Alaska. 1913. [Piles of debris with remains of a barge and roof peaks in view]
52. Front street Nome, Alaska. [Snow covered street scene with horse and carriage, Nome Bank and Trust, Gus Brown's and other storefronts in view] (No. 728)
53. First Avenue Nome, Alaska. [Snow covered street scene with dogs, sleds, people and storefronts in view] (No. 785)
54. The See-uk-kirs-ruk (Welcome Dance, of the Kayiagamutes). Eskimo of Alaska (No. 170)
55. Steadman Avenue, Nome, Alaska. [Two children leaning on snowbank along snow covered street. Icicles hang from buildings] (No. 1124)
56. Snowstorm. Nome, Alaska. Winter 1907. [Snow covered street scene with Lewis Brothers, H.A. Conn's, Miners and Merchants Bank in view.] (No. 802)
57. The Snow Scraper, Front Street, Nome, Alaska [A horse pulled plow moves along snow covered street. Sheldon Hotel in foreground] (No. 1126)
58. Front Street, Nome, Alaska, Winter 1915-1916. [Man and woman standing-on large blocks of snow in front of The Nonpareil Storefront] (No. 1118)
59. An Alaskan Green House, Nome. [Interior view with man standing in far end of aisle] (No. 886)
60. Finish Col. Ramsay's Entry, John Johnson. Driver, Winner 3rd All Alaska Sweepstakes. (No. 851)
61. Hydraulic Mining Glacier Creek Nome 1910. (No. 744)

62. Front Street Nome, Alaska. [Muddy, unpaved street. Men and women stand in front of Northwestern Commercial Co., M.D. Samuels and T.J. Nestor Co. store fronts.] (No. 917)
63. Looking down Snow Gulch, showing Glacier Benches in distance. N.W. Alaska. (No. 812)
64. Actual size of Alaska's largest nugget, found by Pioneer Mining Co. On No. 5. Bench Off Discovery Anvil Wt. 182 oz. Value \$3276.00 Nome September 8, 1903. (No. 767)
65. Actual size of Alaska's largest nugget, found by Pioneer Mining Co. On No. 5. Bench Off Discovery Anvil Wt. 182 oz. Value \$3276.00 Nome September 8, 1903. (No. 767)
66. Surf washing, Nome, Alaska. [Man standing on a sluice box pours dirt into box which sits in water near the shore]. (No. 1158)
67. Mining with "Long Toms" on the beach-at Nome, Alaska. [Men and sluice boxes along the beach] (No. 775)
68. Hydraulic Mining Glacier Creek Nome 1910. [Same as view 61]
69. [Mining operation with tailings, buildings and the Alaska Mercantile Company store in view] (No. 748)
70. On the Ice Hummocks of Bering Sea, opposite Nome, Alaska "May Day" '1910. [Men, women, dogs, sleds, snow shoes and skis in view] (No. 964)
71. Nome from Bering Sea 1907 [Snow drifts along beach in foreground, buildings in background] (No. 723)
72. A Tundra Glacier. Peluk Creek, Nome, Alaska. [Ice overhanging along creek] (No. 1136)
73. Pressure Ice Ridge on the beach at Nome, Alaska. Winter 1915-1916. Dock of Alaska Lighterage and Commercial. [Large chunks of ice piled along beach] (No. 1119)
74. Nome from Bering Sea. [Large chunk of ice in left foreground, snow and building in distance] (No. 772)
75. Roadstead, Nome, Alaska. [Floating ice in foreground, steamship in background] (No. 704)
76. Passenger and Freight Teams meeting the S.S. Corwin. "- Roadstead, Nome, Alaska, June 1st 1914 11:00 P.M. (No. 1001)
77. Moonlight on Bering Sea. [Scenic view with steamship in view] (No. 924)
78. Caisson at Nome, Alaska. Destroyed by Ice Pressure, Winter 1915-1916. [Snow covered ice along beach, and wooden tower on side]

79. Among the Ice Floes, Bering Sea. [Small open boat with large rectangular sail approaches the ice covered shore] (No. 1004)
80. Roadstead, Nome, Alaska. midnight, June 21st, 1910. [Ice in foreground, steamships in background]
81. Positions of Sun at hours of 10:00 and 11:00 A.M. 12:00 M. 1:00 and 2:00 P.M. on December 28th, 1910 from Nome Alaska. (No. 761)
82. Shortest day of the year-Nome, Alaska. [Wooden pilings and tower in view along the beach] (No. 985)
83. The "Breakers" Nome Alaska, September 6th, 1910. [Waves crashing along the shore] (No. 735)
84. The Storm. [Small sail boat, caught in waves breaking along the shore] (No. 73)
- 85.a Nome, Alaska from Bering Sea. [Large-chunks of ice in foreground, buildings in background] (No. 1147)
- 85.b Surf at Nome, Alaska. [Waves crash along shore, men in open boat at left, steamships in background] (No. 801)
86. The approach of Winter in the Arctic. [Two empty canoes beached on snow covered shore, sun behind clouds reflects on water] (No. 1117)
87. Shriner Night Audience at "May Roberts Company" Production of "The Adventuress". Eagle Hall, Nome, Alaska. August 17th, 1912. (No. 677)
88. Eskimo Village, King Island, Alaska. [Homes on stilts along rock cliffs] (No. 908)
89. An "East Caper" at Nome, Alaska. [Woman standing in front of large skin boat turned on its side] (No. 219)
90. U.S.R.C. "Bear" and S.S. "Corwin".- Roadstead, Nome, Alaska. [Ice and snow in foreground] (no. 996)
91. [Walrus with tusks hanging over side of boat] (No. 770)
92. The Iditarod River, Alaska. [Scenic view with trees along river reflected in the water] (No. 864)
93. [Eskimo man wearing fur parka and holding an harpoon, stands on a large chunk of ice. One man kayak, a seal on the ice at his feet and the mans reflection in the water are in the view] (No. 1139)
94. Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. [Snow covered rock formation protrudes from water] (No. 1055)

95. Kruzamapa Hot Springs, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. [Scenic view] (No. 745)
96. Allan and Darling Entry, "Scotty" Allen, Driver,- Eighth all Alaska Sweepstakes,, "Scotty" Allan, Driver, Nome, Alaska, April 14th, 1915. [Man, dogs and sled in view]
97. Allan and Darling Entry, Fifth Alaska Sweepstakes, "Scotty" Allan, Driver, Nome, Alaska, 1912. (No. 858)
98. A malamute chorus [Man and woman on dog sled with dogs howling]
99. "Some Pup." [Dog standing on snow piled high in front of house]
100. [Close up of dog and four pups weaving] (No. 672A)
101. "Baldy of Nome" [Close up of dog]
102. On the Nukluk. [Dogs hauling canoe across river. Two men with the canoe and a cache along the shore in view] (No. 787)
103. Winners First Annual All-Alaska Sweepstakes, Nome, Alaska. [Man on sled and dogteam in view]. (No. 842)
104. Allan and his dogs. [Man and dogteam] (No. 1021)
105. On the Iditarod. [Men loading wood onto the river steamer RELIANCE. Passengers watch from deck on steamer] (No. 865)
106. Leonhard Seppala and his Siberians.-Winners, Eighth and Ninth All Alaska Sweepstakes, Nome, Alaska, 1915 and 1916.- "Ruby Derby," Ruby, Alaska, 1916.-[Large chunks of ice in background] (No. 1130)
107. Winner First Place. Col. Ramsay's Entry, 3rd All Alaska Sweepstakes, . John Johnson, Driver. [Ice and snow in background] c. 1910 (No. 846)
108. Alaska Malamute, Nome. [Close up of dogs]
109. Alaska Malamutes, Nome. [Close up of two dogs]
110. "Who said Mush" [Close up of dog]
111. Seppala's Siberians in summer quarters, Cape Horn, Alaska. (No. 669)
112. Walrus on the Ice Floes near Nome, Alaska. (No. 769)
113. Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 1. Fifth Anniversary Banquet, Nome Alaska. February 20th, 1912.

114. [Reindeer foraging for food under snow]
115. Freight Scow on the Neukluk River.. [Horse stands on front of scow as men work the boat] (No. 752)
- 116-116b [Similar portraits of Roald Amundsen]
117. To "Brownie" with sencere regards Geo. A. Parks. [Portrait of George A. Parks]
118. Indian Graves, Andreafsky, Alaska. [Small wooden structures marked in the crosses] (No. 162)
119. Miocene Ditch Rounding Cape Horn. [Group of people stand along ditch; rock formation in left of view]
120. St. Michael, Alaska. [General view of buildings and stern wheelers -and barges on the river] (No. 828)
121. Ophir Creek, Council City Precinct, Alaska. [General view] (No. 987)
122. Council City and the Niukluk Valley, Alaska [General view with buildings in middle of photo] (No. 754)
123. Council, Alaska. [Buildings along river, with small boat in foreground] (No. 753)
124. [Eskimo shooting at a seal beached near ice. Woman in kayak paddles nearby the shore]
125. [Three Eskimos being pulled by dogs attached to an open car along the Seward Peninsula Railroad line)
126. [Nome harbor with buildings along waterfront]
127. [Hydraulic mining operation near Nome]
128. Reindeer Herd, Port Clarence, Alaska. (No. 893)
129. Sledge Island Rookeries. [Rock formations and ice] (No. 826)
130. [Passengers observe ice floes from deck of steamship] (No. 833)
131. Bering Sea Rookeries. (No. 889)
132. Board of Trade Bulletin 5th Annual All Alaska Sweepstakes.
133. [Capt. Roald Amundsen standing in front of tent]
134. On the trail-Pilgrim River, Alaska. [Reindeer pulling sleds] (No. 61i)

135. St. George, Pribilof Islands. [General view of buildings]
136. A baby seal. [Resting on a rock]
137. A Bering Sea Ice Hummock. [Close up view] (No. 967)
138. Eskimo Hunter's and their trophies. Bering Sea. [Walrus lined up along shore, skin boat in background] (No. 419)
139. "Come on in-the water's fine."-Midwinter Sports in N.W.-Alaska. [Three men take a bath in warm springs while a fourth wearing a parka watches from snowy river banks] (No. 615A)
140. Black Chief Bluff, near Alaska. [Scenic view] (No. 898)
141. Reindeer transportation. [Men and women wearing fur parkas, reindeer and sleds in view. Log homes in background] (No. 929)
142. Nome, Alaska, December 3rd 1915. [Two reindeer pull sleds with women and children. Buildings in background] (No.1115)
143. Native Reindeer Herder-Nome, Alaska [Man sits on sled being pulled by reindeers (No. 797)
144. [Portrait of two boys standing barefoot on the beach]
145. Reindeer herd Cape Prince of Wales Alaska. (No. 894)
146. A Rebellious captive-Alaskan Eskimo and Reindeer. (No. 968)
147. The midnight sun-the setting and rising sun at Kotzebue, Alaska, June 21 and 22, several exposures at intervals of 15 minutes. (No. 715)
148. Ptarmigan of North Western Alaska. [Thirteen ptarmigan displayed on fur setting] (No. 713)
149. [Reindeer eating moss in rocky area]
150. The S.S. "Victoria" bucking heavy seas in Bering. Photo taken 8 P.M. [Bow of ship and rigging in view] (No. 901)
151. S.S. "Victoria" [Snow covered ice floe in foreground (No. 1011)
152. S.S. "Victoria" discharging passengers, Nome, Alaska. [Passengers leaving- ship to board barges and scows] (No. 1013)
153. W.A. Royce completing city contract for the planking of Front Street, Nome, Alaska, 1912. [Street scene with numerous men in view] (No. 544)

154. [Nome, Alaska street scene with Worden's Merchants Cafe, Crowley and Porter Groceries and other stores in view]
155. "The shades of Night." Kruzamapa Hot Springs, Alaska. [Scenic view] (No. 584)
156. Black Chief Bluff-near Bluff City. [Scenic view] (No. 811)
157. Kruzamapa Hot Springs-Seward Penninsula [Seward Peninsula], Alaska. [Scenic view] (No. 745)
158. Taku Inlet, Alaska. [Scenic view, with ice floes in foreground] (No. 1077)
159. Taku Glacier, Alaska. [Scenic view water in foreground, Glacier in background] (No. 1081)
160. [Borden Marathon Trophy. Nome Kennel Club] listing winners 1917- 1927.
161. Bering Sea after the storm. [Waves crashing along shore. People watch from beach in right foreground] (No. 825)
162. "Beached." - Nome, Alaska. [Waves break over an anchored barge] (No. 1022)
163. The ski Jumper, Nome, Alaska. [Silhouette of man airborne on skis after jumping from airplane. Snow piled in blocks on beach.] (No. 980)
164. U.S.R.C. "Bear" and S.S. Corwin Roadstead, Nome, Alaska [Color tint]
165. Iditarod, Alaska. (No. 867.)
166. A Misty Day - Front Street, Nome, Alaska. [Snow scene with city clock at left of picture] (No. 1125)
167. [Portrait of an Eskimo man dressed in a hooded rain jacket made from the lining membrane of the intestine of a seal or walrus.] (No. 122)
168. Portrait of Eskimo man, seated on floor with legs crossed. Drilling tool in left hand and mouth.] (No. 208)
169. [Eskimo hunter on ice, harpoon in right hand ready to throw. Rower in kayak, center background.] (No. 1140)
170. The Seal Hunter [Eskimo hunter in fur outfit dragging a seal across the snow.] (No. 87)
171. Nome, 1906. [Eskimo woman on haunches cooking over an open fire on beach]
172. Approach to Eskimo "eni" at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. [Low opening with furs and other items on each side.] (No. 128)

173. Looking east from the foot of Lane's Way - after the big storm, Nome, Ak. 1913. [Four men looking at partly destroyed building. Postcard size.]
174. After the big storm, 1913. First Ave., Nome, Alaska. [Small wooden building with front tipped up]
175. The Mighty Bering. [Large pieces of snow covered .ice pushed up on shore. Nome buildings in background.] (No. 724)
176. Council, Alaska. [Postcard size picture of buildings in Council including Kane House and Marks.]
177. Black Wolf Squadron at Nome, 1920. [Group of 8 men standing in front of a biplane.]
178. [Young Eskimo child in fur parka and fur mukluks]
179. Bird's eye view of Nome from Lane's derrick, 1903. (No. 807)
180. United States mail team, Nome - Teller route, Alaska.. [Main on loaded sled with team of reindeer hitched to it.] (No. 1121)
181. [Dog team hitched to a sled, men on snow bank in background.]
182. [Envelope for negatives used by Lomen Brothers in Nome.]
183. [Full face portrait of a young Eskimo woman wearing a fur parka. Hood has large fur ruff.] (No. 2)
184. [3 Eskimos on small hand car which is being pulled by 6 dogs running on-the railroad tracks. Probably Nome.]
185. The Midnight sun [Sun near horizon] (No. 810)
186. Behring sea after a storm at Nome. [Waves and swells, Clouds in sky] (No. 840)
187. Interior church, Holy Cross [view of altar showing icons, statuary, candles and flowers]. (No. 877)
188. First Ave., Iditarod, Alaska [block long row of stores with people on wooden sidewalks in front of the stores]. (No. 868)
189. The schooner Challenger ashore at Nome, Alaska [man at right walking toward ship aground; rough surf.]. (No. 114)
190. Front St. - Ruby, Alaska [stores on either side of unpaved street; groups of men and women along street].

191. [Seven men standing behind gold bricks which are arranged on a table; Nome.] (No. 1436).
192. "Trail" party given by Mrs. W.C. Shields to Harry Lomen on his birthday, Nome, May 16, 1917 [group of people seated in a tent; food in center]. (#1332).
193. [Large room with fireplace at far end; long table and chairs, center; arm chairs, right-] (#319)
194. St. Mary's Choir, Nome, Alaska. Christmas, 1910 [13 men and women in choir robes at altar of church].
195. Start of F.M Ayer entry; Ninth All Alaska Sweepstakes, Nome, Alaska, April 11, 1916 [Crowds on either side of dogs, partially hiding them].
196. Start of Mrs. H.H. Darran entry Glue (?) Pot Club Race for Ladies, Nome, Alaska, March 21, 1914 [dog team in street with people on either side]. (#1206).
197. Start of Fay Delzene entry in the Solomon Derby, Nome, Alaska, March 2, 1914 [team being readied to start with crowds on either side of the street]. (#218).
198. Start of Mrs. Johnson entry, Fifth All American Sweepstakes, Nome, Alaska, April 4, 1912 [people on either side of team].
199. Mrs. L. Stevenson entry, Mrs. F.M. Ayer, "Burden"; winners, first place, Camoogan Burden Handicap Race, Nome to Council, Alaska, April 1917. [10 dog team; 2 people near sled]. (#1951)
200. Sleds made by Catholic Eskimos for Stefannsson's exploring expedition, The Rev. Bellarmine La Fortune, S.J., is on the left. [Eight Eskimos are grouped among the 10 or 12 sleds.]
201. [Portrait of young Eskimo lady with long hair in braids. Dressed in a parka.]
202. Eskimos out "in the wilderness". Nome, Alaska, [Two adults, two children & a dog.]
203. Two Little-Eskimo Maids. [Same children in PCA 28-3]
204. Eskimo Ivory Carver-Drilling. [Eskimo man with head bent down over the mouthpiece of the drill.]
205. [Eskimo woman, with baby strapped to her back, bent over fleshing out an animal.]
206. [Eskimo lady in lightweight parka with a baby strapped to her back.]
207. [Eskimo lady in full winter regalia with baby strapped to her back.] Copyright 1903 by Lomen Bros.

208. [Eskimo lady in winter parka, a toddler standing in front of her.]
209. [Little Eskimo girl in winter garb.]
210. [Eskimo holding the reins of a sled harnessed to a reindeer.] 586A.
211. U.S.R.C. "Bear" and SS. "Corwin". Roadstead, Nome, Alaska. [See PCA 28-164 for hand colored llx14.] #996.
212. [Two young Eskimo children seated on the grass.]
213. St. Patrick's Mask Ball -- Flat City -- Camp A.B. no. 26 [Large group of men, women and children, some in costume; U.S. flag on wall behind group.]
214. [Pipes for thawing ground, foreground, with gold dredge behind them; Nome area.]
215. Alaska Reindeer, Kotzebue Herd No. 2 [Large herd of reindeer; low hills in background.] #695C and 1167.
216. [Eight members of the Black Wolf Squadron with a group of Nome residents beside plane. 1920.]
217. Looking Down Snow Gulch, Showing Glacier Benches in the Distance, N.W. Alaska [small groups of building in distance]. (no. 812)
218. "Kituck," Eskimo boy dancer, Nome. (no. 9.)
219. Eskimo woman, "Mi-Kinnina Kow-Kow," nursing two babies. (no. 92)
220. [Eskimo man smoking pipe. possibly #209]
221. [Eskimo man in fur, seated on fur-covered stool.] 1903.
222. "Selicktuna" [or Selictuna] Eskimo woman and child, 1903 (no. 101)
223. The Dress of the Coronation Gulf Eskimo. [front view] (no. 232)
224. [Eskimo child dressed in hooded, fur parka, gloves, and boots.]
225. [Portrait of Eskimo woman with very long hair.]
226. [Eskimo woman in hooded, fur parka.]
227. The Dress of the Coronation Gulf Eskimo. [back view] (no. 233)
228. [Eskimo woman cooking on campfire]
229. [Ice fishing]

230. Interior Eskimo eni, Cape Prince of Wales., Alaska [Man, woman, and girl seated inside eni]
231. [Eskimo with reindeer]
232. [Man and woman (Eskimo?) standing outside of skin dwelling]
233. [Young man and woman (Eskimo?)]
234. [Eskimo viewing walrus after a hunt]
235. [Four dressed in fur, pushing oomiak into icy ocean]
236. The *S.S. Victoria* bucking heavy seas in Bering. Photo. taken 8 p.m. (no. 901)
237. *S.S. Victoria*.
238. [Octagonal wooden structure with pointed roof]
239. Approach to Eskimo "Eni" at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska.
240. The midnight sun. (No. 810)
241. ? Entry, Fifth All Alaska Sweepstakes, Nome, Alaska April 4th, 1912.
242. [Surf washer?] Nome.
243. Sluicing on Little Creek.
244. \$1,250,000.gold buillion [bouillon] Miners Mercht's [Merchant's] Bank, Nome Alaska, June 10th, 1906 (No. 794)
245. The Giants at Work, Miocene Ditch Co.'s Operations on Glacier Creek, Alaska, Aug. 7th, 1910. (No. 741)
246. Panoramic view of Little Creek Alaska's Third Beach Line, 1906.
247. Blue Goose Mining Co.'s dredge operating on Ophir Creek, Council City Rec. Dist., Alaska (No. 992)
248. [Eskimo burial ground?]
249. The Giants at Work, Miocene Ditch Co.'s Operations on Glacier Creek, Alaska, Aug. 7th, 1910. (No. 742)
250. Nome, Alaska, from sandspit.

- 251. Nome from Behring [Bering] Sea, 1907.
- 252. [High snow banks on edge of town. John J. Sesson Co. visible]
- 253. Walrus asleep on an ice floe in Bering Sea. (No. 984)
- 254. [Seven reindeer, 3 men with sleds in snow]
- 255. [Reindeer herd]
- 256. [Man with sled and sled dogs]
- 257. [Eskimo seal hunters in on ice floes; seal and harpoon on ice.] (No. 1146?)
- 258. Geo. W. Wickersham, U.S. Attorney Gen., Chas. Nagle, Sec'y Dept. of Commerce and Labor, Walter E. Clark, Governor of Alaska, and escorts at Pioneer Mining Co.'s hydraulic elevator on No. 6 Bench, Moonlight Creek, Alaska, Aug. 20th, 1910.

Addition: Acc. 2006-11

- 259. The Winners, W. B. Kirk, Driver, Mrs. Kirk, Burden, Argument Handicap Race, Nome, Alaska, March 6, 1915.
- 260. The Winners, W. B. Kirk, Entry, Mrs. Kirk, Burden, Argument Handicap Race, Nome to Safety, Alaska, March 6, 1915.
Verso: Nome to Safety 22 miles. Time 1 hour, 50 min 30 seconds. Won a silver cup each.