

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Belcher, Frederick W.

Frederick W. Belcher Photograph Collection, ca. 1960s- 1971

PCA 50

37 photographs (contact prints)

ACQUISITION: These contact prints were made from the photographs in the Belcher circulating photo exhibit of the Alaska State Museum. Duplicates may be found in the Alaska Division of Tourism Collection, PCA 22, which contains a folder of Belcher's photographs, PCA 22, v. 23B.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The 5 x 6 cm. images were printed 12 to a page. The pages are sleeved in Mylar.

Biographical Note

Frederick Belcher, originally from Chicago, began his working career in Alaska on the ferries as "Head" Steward. On one trip he met the director of the Alaska Travel Division. In 1963 Belcher was hired as photographer for the Division.

Belcher enjoyed the outdoors and travel and these are reflected in his photographs. Many of his photographs appeared in *Alaska Sportsman* magazine. He was adopted into the Tlingit Indian tribe at Hoonah. Eskimo children called Mr. Belcher "Mr. Click-Click" according to Diane Murphy in the Alaska Division of Tourism.

Mr. Belcher lost his life Aug. 12, 1971, in a helicopter crash while taking photos of the Copper River area for State mapping use. [Source: Interview, D. Murphy, Alaska Division of Tourism, 1-18-79, and "Tribute to Fred Belcher," by Mike Miller, *Juneau Empire*, Aug. 16, 1971.]

Scope and Contents

The 37, 5 x 6 cm. black and white contact prints cover a wide variety of subjects and locations, including Eskimos, wildlife, and scenics. Negatives are both black and white and color.

Inventory of Photographs

- 1 [Young girl in costume with white apron and blouse; patterned stockings; ships and mountains]
- 2 [Athapascan girl with puppy]
- 3 [Close-up of an old totem]
- 4 [Fawn camouflaged in bushes]
- 5 [Potlatch spoon with carved handle; large carved object behind it]
- 6 [Dog team pulling sled with one person riding, one beside sled]
- 7 [Man playing Eskimo drums]
- 8 [Eskimo children dressed in parkas sitting on a snow bank]
- 9 [Old bearded man standing beside a husky dog; cane in left hand]

- 10 [Young boy in hooded parka sitting in a box on the ground]
- 11 [Driftwood on a beach]
- 12 [Close-up of daisy-like blossoms]
- 13 [Man, with guitar, walking along a beach]
- 14 [Three people fishing from beach]
- 15 [Woman in "Gay 90's" costume, including parasol, standing in front of Red Feather Saloon]
- 16 [Full length view of totem in grove of trees]
- 17 [Men on scaffolding erected around decaying totem]
- 18 [Close-up of Tlingit raven carving]
- 19 [Left profile of elderly Tlingit wearing ceremonial headdress]
- 20 [Herd of fur seals on rocky beach; water beyond]
- 21 [Seagull landing on water]
- 22-23 [Unidentified buildings with lights reflected in water; mountains beyond]
- 24 [Man and dog on beach; winding river, right; mountains beyond water]
- 25 [Eskimo mother with baby on back; close-up view]
- 26 [Two musk-ox standing in snow]
- 27 [Close-up of wooden door and hinge]
- 28 [Men on fishing boat reeling in net]
- 29 [Close-up of a flower blossom]
- 30 [Young Eskimo dancer; man with drums, left; people seated along wall]
- 31 [Elderly Eskimo woman wearing fur parka; right profile]

- 32 [Identical to # 28]
- 33 [Close-up of coiled rope]
- 34 [Close-up of snow shoes, vertically in snow; running dog team with driver beyond]
- 35 [Close-up of a pair of husky dogs in harness; right profile]
- 36 [Distant view of 3 skiers; mountains beyond]
- 37 [Silhouette of an adult bear; trees beyond]