

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

United States Revenue Cutter Service

U.S. Revenue Cutter Service Photograph Collection, 1905, 1920s

PCA 79

4 Folders
130 b&w photographs

Processed by: Staff
Updated by: Jacki Swearingen,
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ACQUISITION: Photographs #1-86 were donated July 1963 to Edward Keithahn, curator of the Alaska State Museum, by Harry P. Gotchel via Senator Bob Bartlett. Photographs # 87-130 were donated July 11, 1980 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Choate via Patricia Oakes.

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

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: The photographs were numbered, placed in Mylar, and put into acid free folders. The folders were put into an archival box. A finding aid is available.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The barkentine *Bear* (190.4 ft. long) built in Scotland in 1873 was purchased by the U.S. Government in 1884 for the Greely Relief Expedition. Transferred in 1885 to the Revenue Service, she was active in Alaska waters from 1886-1924. From her home port in San Francisco, the Revenue Cutter *Bear* usually made annual trips to Alaska with many ports of call and served on the Bering Sea Patrol for protection of the seal fisheries.

In 1905 the *Bear*, under Captain O.C. Hamlet visited Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, Nome, Teller, Diomed Island, St. Lawrence Island, Siberia, Kivalina, Kodiak, Sitka and other locations. A letter by Captain Hamlet on this trip describes the diversity of duty including transport of law officers to handle legal matters, school officials to inspect buildings and reindeer herds, carrying passengers, investigating complaints, landing mail, etc.* One of the passengers was an Eskimo man looking for a wife.

In 1944 the *Bear* was decommissioned, sold in 1948, and sank in 1963 while under tow.

*Reference: Bixby, William. TRACK OF THE BEAR, N.Y., David McKay Co., 1965. (Letter, p. 194-199.)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

These views of the trip made by the Revenue Cutter *Bear* in 1905 were located in the Alaska State Museum. Copy negatives have been made for 86 views selected from the 204, for their content and reproduction quality. Also, there were several views of some subjects, and the best were reproduced. Views not copied included: 23-Southeast Alaska; 13-Aleutian Islands; 10-Nome area; 14-Siberia and other miscellaneous.

In July 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Choate of Central, Alaska, donated views #87-130. The photos are from an album and record the voyage of the U.S.S. *Bear* from 1922 and 1923 as well as scenes from other ships. The album also includes miscellaneous views of people and towns in Alaska, Siberia and the Pacific Northwest.

INVENTORY

- 1 Barrow - Side view of Point Barrow Post Office, August, 1905.
- 2 Barrow - Eskimos on the deck of the Cutter Bear, August, 1905.
- 3 Barrow - Eskimos in skin boat being towed by other small boats August, 1905.
- 4 Barrow - Skin boat overturned on shore with Arctic ocean and Bear in Background, August, 1905.
- 5 Barrow. - Eskimos and sailors on deck of Bear, August, 1905.

- 6 Barrow - Front view of Post Office, August, 1905.
- 7 Bering Sea - Three sailors rowing in a boat.
- 8 Bering Sea - Revenue officer on deck with unknown man and unknown man.
- 9 Bering sea - Six sailors standing alongside row boat with buildings unknown.
- 10 Deering - Friends Mission House, 1905.
- 11 Diomedes Islands - Eskimos in skin boat, July, 1905.
- 12 Diomedes Islands - Two men with rope on Cutter Bear, July, 1905.
- 13 Diomedes Islands - Eskimos and sailors on deck of Bear, July, 1905.
- 14 Diomedes Islands - Eskimo's boarding Bear from skin boat, July, 1905.
- 15 Diomedes Island - View of island from Bear, July, 1905.
- 16 Dutch Harbor - View of Dutch Harbor - August and September, 1905. View from the water.
- 17 Dutch Harbor - View of Dutch Harbor - August and September, 1905.
- 18 Dutch Harbor - View of Dutch Harbor, August and September, 1905.
- 19 Dutch Harbor - The U.S. Revenue Cutter, Manning tied up at dock.
- 20 Dutch Harbor - Officers of the Bear and Manning, August, 1905.
- 21 Dutch Harbor - Officers of the Bear and Manning, August, 1905.
- 22 Homer - View of Old Homer on the Spit. (Homer Coal Mine)
- 23 Homer - View of Old Homer on the Spit. (Homer Coal Mine)
- 24 Hoonah - View of Hoonah Homes with boat and canoes in foreground (name in right lower corner, CHLOPECK N)
- 25 Kivalina - (Corwin Lagoon) Herd of Reindeer
- 26 Kivalina - (Corwin Lagoon) Herd of Reindeer
- 27 Kivalina - (Corwin Lagoon) Herd of Reindeer - Group of Eskimos standing in front of tents and cabins.

- 28 Kodiak - Alaska Commercial Company and other buildings on dock area, September, 1905.
- 29 Kodiak - View of Kodiak - September, 1905
- 30 Kodiak - Miscellaneous Residences, September, 1905.
- 31 Kodiak - View of Russian Church and Harbor, 1905.
- 32 Kotzebue Sound - Mastodon tusks and skull, 1905.
- 33 Lake Bennett - building with lake in background.
- 34 Nome - Street view, with Buildings, People, horses and dogs.
- 35 Nome - Dog in foreground - with lift boom facilities in background.
- 36 Nome - Dexter Road House
- 37 Nome - Anvil Creek Mining Operation
- 38 Nome - Anvil Creek Mining Operation. Man hosing ore.
- 39 Nome - Anvil Creek Mining Operation - View of hydraulic system, August, 1905.
- 40 Nome - Anvil Creek - Captain Hamlet of Bear washing gold in pan. August, 1905.
- 41 Nutchek - View of Village with mountains in background.
- 42 St. Lawrence - Miscellaneous Buildings - July and August, 1905.
- 43 St. Lawrence - Sepillu, a St. Lawrence Island Eskimo - who made the trip on the Bear in search of a wife, but returned as Captain Hamlet called "the unmarried man."
- 44 Seldovia - Over all- view of Seldovia from the water.
- 45 Seldovia - View of town with a large rock formation in foreground.
- 46 Sitka - Building with sign on front that says Baranof.
- 47 Sitka - U.S. warehouse and assorted buildings.
- 48 Sitka - Native man carving with nets in background (front view) 1905.
- 49 Sitka - Native man carving with nets in background (side view) 1905.
- 50 Sitka - Old Sitka waterfront, 1905.

- 51 Skagway - B.P.O.E. Building, 1905.
- 52 Skagway - Unknown Street View, 1905.
- 53 Teller - Men in foreground with buildings in background.
- 54 Teller - Large unknown buildings.
- 55 Teller - Men pulling a wheeled log cart in front of a large building.
- 56 Teller - View of waterfront buildings including the Gibson House, The New Gibson, and The Batchelor.
- 57 Enlisted man blowing a bugle on deck of the Bear.
- 58 Teller - Ships with the shore of Teller in background.
- 59 Teller - Street scene with people on board sidewalks - showing named buildings -- Woodbine, the Walker, etc.
- 60 Unalaska - Officers and Enlisted men of the Bear standing on her deck - August and September, 1905.
- 61 Unalaska - view of town with boats in harbor.
- 62 Unalaska - view of Russian Orthodox Church with shrubs in foreground.
- 63 Unalaska - view of town and Russian Orthodox Church.
- 64 Unalaska - Close up view of Russian Orthodox Church and graveyard.
- 65 Unalaska - View of a row of houses with small boats on shore line.
- 66 Unimak Island - Scotch Cap Lighthouse and buildings.
- 67 Valdez - Street Scene with many business buildings horse and carriage in center.
- 68 Valdez - View of residences - hills in background, September, 1905.
- 69 Valdez - View of residences and church, September, 1905.
- 70 Valdez - Captain Johansen of the Dora with unknown man on ships deck. September, 1905.
- 71 Valdez - Landing horses on Steamer, Dora, September, 1905.
- 72 White Pass - Summit White Pass Hotel sign in foreground with rocks in background.

- 73 White Pass - White Pass and Yukon Rail Road ticket office with men standing on boardwalk in foreground, 1905.
- 74 Wrangell - View of men trading with Native women. 1905.
- 75 Siberia - Eskimo man dressed in furs.
- 76 Siberia - two men standing (one in a long fur coat) in front of building.
- 77 Siberia - Women and dogs standing outside building in Nazarma.
- 78 Vancouver, B.C. - The Bear[?] anchored in harbor.
- 79 Two men on deck of Bear.
- 80 Man on upper deck with men on lower deck in background on Bear.
- 81 Close up of the Masthead of the Bear
- 82 Officer Dorrie on deck of Bear.
- 83 Officer Dorrie, Captain Hamlet and office Mead on deck of Bear.
- 84 Canoes on shore in foreground with tents scattered among trees. (unknown place)
- 85 W[?] Lopp (Supt. of Alaskan Affairs) and William Hamilton (Asst. Supt. of Education in Alaska) on deck of Bear, 1905.
- 86 The Schooner Laura Madsen under full sail
87. Eskimos at St. Laurence Bay, July '22 (?) [Family group outside tent shaped house. Photo taken by member of USS Bear crew]
- 88 USS Bear off Point Barrow, '22. [Ship caught in Arctic ocean ice]
- 89 Native boy with his best friend. [Young boy in parka beside a dog]
- 90 USS Bear off Point Barrow, '22. [Ship in ice, similar to #88]
- 91 USS New Mexico firing broadside. [Smoke from firing obscuring most of the ship]
- 92 Shells hitting around the targets. [Deck of ship with sailors watching shells hitting the water; clock with time and date - June 11, 1924]
- 93 Beaching skin boat after the hunt. Point Barrow. 1923. [Group of Eskimos pulling boat onto beach using a long rope. Winter scene.]

- 94 Ready for the dash - Pt. Barrow to Wainwright. [Dog team hitched to sled with man behind]
- 95 Ready for the hunt - Point Barrow. [Group of men on either side of boat still on beach, house in background.]
- 96 Getting ready to move to summer camp, Point Barrow. [Ten people on 2 loaded sleds, one dog team to right]
- 97 Seward, Ak. [overall view - magazine clipping]
- 98 Cordova, Ak. [overall view - magazine clipping]
- 99 Juneau, Ak. [View from channel - magazine clipping]
- 100 LaTouch, Ak. [View from beach - magazine clipping]
- 101 Ketchikan, Ak. [view from water - magazine clipping]
- 102 Valdez, Ak. [overall view - magazine clipping]
- 103 Anchorage, Ak. [overall view - magazine clipping]
- 104 The gang after inspection, 1923 (July) [Members of crew, USS Bear, on deck of ship]
- 105 USS Brachima and Bear at Anadyr Siberia, July 1923. [View from beach with village in center and ships in background]
- 106 Colfax and Gibson [2 members of "Bear" crew standing on deck; between several fur pelts (fox?)]
- 107 East Cape, Siberia, Aug. 1923. [View of cape from ship]
- 108 Mitzie, August [231 [Close up of a bear cub]
- 109 "Round five, Laddie and Mitzie." [Small dog and bear cub fighting on deck of ship]
- 110 Pork Chops, Bear Mascot - May 1923. [Portrait of cat on deck of USS Bear.]
- 111 "Down for the count - the fight." [Dog and bear fighting, similar to #109.]
- 112 "Mitzie", August 1923. [Bear cub on deck of U.S.S. Bear]
- 113 Sandburn and outcalt after skinning reindeer [2 crew members on deck of U.S.S. Bear, reindeer carcasses hanging behind them]
- 114 Gaul and Frye - U.S.S. Snohomish and light house at Sandy Hook Port Angeles. [2 crew members on deck of U.S.S. Snohomish with Sandy Hook light house in background.]

- 115 "Penney" - U.S.S. Bear. [Man on deck of ship]
- 116 "Slum at the wheel" - Bailey, U.S.S. Snohomish. [Crew member at wheel of ship]
- 117 Griffith - Patty - USS Bear [crew member of Bear sitting on deck holding a small dog]
- 118 Coast Guard Station - Neah Bay, May 1923. [View of station from water]
- 119 Mountains at Port San Juan on Vancouver Island, May 1923. [View of mountains from ship]
- 120 Mts. - Port San Juan. [View from ship, similar to #119]
- 121 S.S. Tuskan Prince, May 1923, ashore on Vancouver Island. [Ship listing in water near shore.]
- 122 S.S. Santa Reta Ashon, Vancouver Island [Distant view of ship in background]
- 123 Gibbson and Mitzie, August 1923. [crewman Gibbson with bear cub and Mitzie on deck of USS Bear]
- 124 S.S. Santa Reta - 123. [Ship in background, listing near shore.]
- 125 "Penney" USS Bear. [Crewman standing on deck of USS Bear. 1923]
- 126 Unalaska, Ak- May, 1923. Taken from the hill. (W.O. Weaver photo)
- 127 Russian Church, Unalaska. [Front view of church.]
- 128 Russian Catholic Church, Unalaska, May 1923. [Interior view]
- 129 Battery of old Russian Guns, Unalaska, Ak. [5 small canons overlooking water.] (Thwaites)
- 130 Main Drag at Nome, June 1923. [View of a Nome Street, 3 people (sailors) walking away from camera]

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Archives vault

2 Boxes of negatives that have not been resleeved and rehoused located in Freezer 4.

7th floor file cabinet

1 Envelope

15 empty negative sleeves with descriptive information written on them.