

**Alaska State Library
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

Smith, Luella G., 1896-1978

Luella Smith Photograph Collection, 1931-1972

PCA 110

18 photographs

Processed by: Staff

ACQUISITION: The provenance is unknown. The collection was obtained prior to accession numbers.

ACCESS: The photographs may be viewed, however, they may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: The photographs are sleeved in Mylar and stored in archival quality housing. An item-level index is available.

Biographical Note

Mary Luella Gilpatrick was born in 1896 in Seattle and moved to Juneau with her family around 1918. When the family moved to Sitka, she ran The Photo Shop with her father, James Henry "Gil" Gilpatrick, from 1924 to 1960. After her father's death in 1960, Luella ran the business until Dec. 31, 1972. An historic legacy of the Sitka area was left in their photographs.

Luella married Robert Claire in 1919 in Sitka had two children, Margaret (Dangel) and Robert James. She remarried in 1926, to Firman Smith. In 1973, she moved to an island off the coast of Sitka and collected shells and wildflowers. She died May 22, 1978.

In addition to her photographs, Luella is remembered for her culinary talents. She and her best friend, Isabel Miller, made 1,062 jars of Alaska wild berry jams which they sold at the Sitka museum. Another time they made 1,440 jars sold by the Sitka Women's Club.

More Photo Shop Studio photographs (including Luella's) may be found in the Isabel Miller Museum in Sitka. Her extensive collection of wild flowers was donated to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and the Sheldon Jackson Library in Sitka. Her shells were donated to the Alaska State Museum and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. [From "Luella Smith : Keeping Sitka's beauty, history alive in photos," by Jane Hanchett, Southeastern Log, Ketchikan, Alaska, vol. 8, no. 2, Feb., 1978.]

Scope and Contents Note

The images are from Sitka and the majority are credited to The Photo Shop Studio. Images of two Tlingit elders, William Wells and Jim Jacobs, in traditional costume, are included. Scenic views of Sitka and the surrounding area and a few snapshots of businesses make up the remainder of the collection.

Inventory

- 1 Sitka, Alaska. [Portrait of Tlingit Indian William Wells]. The Photo Shop Studio.
- 2 Sitka, Alaska. Jim [Jacobs] the jeweler in his dancing costume. July 17, 1931. The Photo Shop Studio A 65.
- 3 Sitka, Alaska. Jim [Jacobs] the jeweler in his dancing costume. The Photo Shop Studio A66.
- 4 Sitka, Alaska. Jim [Jacobs], the jeweler in his dancing costume. 1931. The Photo Shop Studio A64.
- 5 Sitka, Alaska. Jim [Jacobs], the jeweler in his Potlatch Costume. 1931. The Photo Shop Studio A68.

- 6 Sitka, Alaska. Jim [Jacobs] the jeweler in his potlatch costume with potlatch spoon carved by him from mountain sheep horns. The Photo Shop Studio A67.
- 7 Sitka, Alaska. Indian River [Bridge in view] The Photo Shop Studio A1-18.
- 8 Sitka, Alaska and Mt. Edgecumbe. 1-1-72. [General View] The Photo Shop Studio.
- 9 Sitka, Alaska [View from harbor showing wharf, Pioneer Home, Russian Church, Baranoff [Baranov] Castle, Sitkee Hotel and Mountains in background]
- 10 Sitka, Alaska. [Russian Cemetery]
- 11 Sitka, Alaska [wharf area across from Pioneer Home]
- 12 Sitka, Alaska [Sitka Lutheran Church]
- 13 Sitka, Alaska. [Sitka Lutheran Church and Ben Franklin Store]
- 14 Sitka, Alaska. [Standard Oil Company building and Sitka Cold Storage]
- 15 Sitka, Alaska [Aerial view of Crescent Bay and Sheldon Jackson School]
- 16 Sitka, Alaska Public School. The Photo Shop Studio.
- 17 Sitka, Alaska. [Anchor, totem pole and cannon]
- 18 Sitka, Alaska. [Winter street scene]

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