

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Tjernagel, Clarence J.

Clarence J. Tjernagel Photograph Collection, 1906-1909

PCA 138

115 photographs
4 reels (1,200 ft.), 8mm film

Processed by: Staff
1975

ACQUISITION: This collection was given to the Historical Library in July, 1975, as part of an agreement with Human Environmental Resources (H.E.R.S.) Inc. and the Imuruk Project (Laurel Bland, Director). Manuscripts form a separate collection, MS 4, Box 9).

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

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PROCESSING: The photographs are sleeved in Mylar. The films are stored with the collection. The collection was misnamed "Tjernagle" until 2008, based on misspellings in all transferring paperwork and correspondence. His signatures and census information are clearly "Tjernagel".

Biographical Note

At the age of 19, Clarence J. Tjernagel became the first teacher to conduct formal public school classes in Marys Igloo (also known as Igloo) opening a school in 1906. He also taught in Teller, was a miner, did construction work and managed one of the Lomen Bros. stores. Tjernagel stayed in this region until around 1909 and came back to the Aleutians during World War II as a freight handler for the U.S. Army.

His uncle, H.M. Tjernagel, was a pastor and missionary at the Lutheran Mission in Mary's Igloo from about 1900 to 1913. Clarence Tjernagel died at age 92 in Mt. Vernon, WA.

Mary's Igloo was a mining camp on the Seward Peninsula, 40 miles southeast of Teller and 80 miles north of Nome. First settled in 1899, it served as a distribution point for goods going to the gold fields in the Kougarok (or Kugruk) Mining District.

Scope and Contents

The images show the areas around Mary's Igloo and Teller, including schools, classrooms and students. Also shown are reindeer, Eskimos (many are identified), fishing activity, a cemetery, native housing, Teller reindeer station and the Lutheran Mission construction. The first 33 photos were taken in the Teller area, the remaining were taken in Mary's Igloo.

Inventory

- 1 Mona Mona [men in a circle, possibly playing a game. Small buildings in background]
- 2,3 Boiler house #3, sunset [a small building with tall chimney, winter scene].
- 4 Two sled deer [reindeer tied to a post, long building behind]
- 5 [Two young Eskimo children in fur parkas and fur boots].
- 6 Gallows frame [wooden structure partly buried in snow drifts].
- 7 Ruins of boiler house [winter scene with barrel like tank on right].
- 8 Miss Astrio Peterson [woman with fur parka on skis].
- 9 Four pupils [outdoor winter scene with 4 Eskimo children in parkas and boots].
- 10 View station [5 buildings on a bluff, stream in foreground].
- 11 Carl Syders in pit [head of man in a pit filled with water].
- 12 Whaler's banquet [13 men seated at a table for a meal, July 8, 1908].

- 13 Sawtooth Range [snow covered peaks in far distance, beach and water in foreground].
- 14 Interior, school house [view of chalk boards and teachers desk and chair, Teller].
- 15 Underground #3, sunset [entrance to a mine shaft].
- 16 Sunset [scenic of sun setting in distance, reflected on water. Part of a building on right].
- 17 Teddy bear in ice. Navigation in the Arctic [ship in ice, skiff attached, men on board].
- 18 Softly the shades are stealing [two buildings, one of log construction, at sunset].
- 19-20 Underground #3.sunset [similar view of a mining operation].
- 21 Working #3 sunset [man and woman in mine opening].
- 22 Underground #3 sunset [same scene as 21 without people].
- 23 Afternoon pupils [Clarence Tjernagel and Teller school children in front of chalkboard].
- 24 Eskimo orchestra [group of Eskimos, some with drums].
- 25 Workings #3 sunset [view of mining operations].
- 26 School house burned January 6, 1909 [view of school taken before it burned].
- 27 Native fish camp [tent on right, hanging fish on lines to left].
- 28 Xmas tree, 1908. Teller, reindeer station, Alaska [Christmas tree and packages].
- 29 Clarence Tjernagel standing in school house [Teller school house].
- 30 Clarence Tjernagel sitting in school house.
- 31 Eskimo orchestra [Eskimo men with Eskimo drums].
- 32 Orphanage [side view of a wooden building].
- 33 Esaksruk and boat [young Eskimo boy holding a model of a sailing ship].

Nos. 34-115, were taken at Mary's Igloo, Alaska.

- 34 School house, winter front [small building, half buried in snow, path dug to door].
- 35 Natives [large group of Eskimo men, women and children].
- 36 Interior school ["Igloo, Alaska, Clarence J. Tjernagel, teacher" written on chalkboard].

- 37 Front schoolhouse [view of small low building showing covered entrance].
- 38 Part of village - Mary's Igloo [winter view of buildings].
- 39 U.S. School, Igloo [two story wooden structure, winter scene].
- 40 Clarence Tjernagel Eskimo suit [portrait: Clarence Tjernagel in fur parka and boots].
- 41 Station from beach [Clarence Tjernagel with game birds after hunting].
- 42 Hot springs [snowy scene with mountains in background].
- 43 Fishing scene [five people probably fishing through ice, difficult to determine].
- 44 Sawtooth Range, moonlight [mountains in background, buildings in center].
- 45 Offices [2 false front wooden buildings in winter, "Office of U.S. Commissioner"].
- 46 Dog team and wood.
- 47 Actuck and wife [Eskimo couple in parkas leaning against an overturned wooden boat].
- 48 Rosella and Eva [woman and young girl in winter clothing in front of same boat as #471].
- 49 "17 of em" [dog team and 2 men beside a snow buried structure with stovepipe]
- 50 Miners camp [two men and 2 dogs near a small building, winter scene].
- 51 Oquioluk and family [Eskimo man, woman and child in fur parkas].
- 52 Ituainghi and family [Eskimo man, woman and young girl in fur parkas].
- 53 Pupils on boat [group of 11 children on a beached boat].
- 54 Tukeluerluk [Eskimo man and women in parkas standing at entrance to small house].
- 55 Tweuk and family [Eskimo family with 2 children dressed in fur parkas].
- 56 Pupils [students in Mary's Igloo class, October 17, 1906].
- 57 Read view - school house [small building surrounded by snow].
- 58 John and family [6 people, including 2 children, some in western cloths, some in parkas].
- 59 Asiourock and family [4 people in parkas including a young boy].
- 60 Schoolhouse [small building surrounded by grass].

- 61 Igloo, Alaska [row of wooden buildings, winter scene].
- 62-63 Sawtooth Range [mountains in background with buildings across center of picture].
- 64 Igloo's pupils [group of students standing in snow with Clarence in front, seated].
- 65 CJT on top of Mt. Fatigue [CJT with camera and tripod].
- 66 Native igloo [small building partly buried with cache to right].
- 67 Skaters [2 people on ice skates.]
- 68 Sunrise [sun rising over mountains in background].
- 69 Iluk and family [4 Eskimos in parkas, one a young child]
- 70a,b My room [2 views of CJT residence, shows shelves, table and bed].
- 71 Launch, sunset [small ship, with skiff, on the water].
- 72 #9 sunset [small group of buildings, winter scene].
- 73 Reindeer here. Part of head, Teller [large herd of reindeer on a grassy plain, hills in background].
- 74 [One bull reindeer beside a body of water].
- 75 E.A. Winfield with game [man with rifle behind killed game].
- 76 My dog team [harnessed dogs resting in snow with empty sled to right].
- 77 View from Teller toward stations [scenic of mountains in background, water in center].
- 78 Noon, Dec. 22 [sun rising near horizon, two reindeer in center of picture].
- 79 Reg [Ray?] Mountain.
- 80 Frame of schoolhouse [school building under construction].
- 81 Ready for a sail [skiff being pushed into water, people in skiff and on shore].
- 82 Six Panes [view of six windows of a building].
- 83 From station to cemetery [view of cemetery on distant bluff].
- 84 Station from Mt. Fatigue [small building in center of picture].
- 85-86 Reindeer [similar views of a reindeer herd].

- 87 Deer, Bering, Alaska distant view of reindeer herd on a grassy slopel-
- 88a-e Teller [views of the buildings at Teller].
- 89a-e Top of Mt. Fatigue [similar views of a rocky mountain top].
- 90a [Small sail boat being launched from shore, 3 people on boat].
- 90b Under full sail [same boat as 90a in water with sails up].
- 91 Woods Station in distance [grassy plain with small group of buildings at left center].
- 92 Ten O'Clock [two men in tent, one under covers, one holding a pocket watch].
- 93a Deer [herd of reindeer on grassy beach, water behind them].
- 93b [View of reindeer herd taken from across a small body of water].
- 93c Close up of part of the reindeer herd on grassy plain]
- 93d [Reindeer herd in distance, herder at right center].
- 94 Skeleton and scaffold [burial site, skeletal remains on a raised log platform].
- 95 Sunset [scenic of grassy plain with hills in distance].
- 96 Ready for station [herd of reindeer in grassy field].
- 97 Up Mission Creek [young man in center beside a small stream, hills in background].
- 98a [Schooner *ABLE* at dock, man in foreground].
- 98b [Schooner *ABLE* at dock].
- 99 Ready for station [group of people in skiff taking off from dock].
- 100 Brerig on way to station [people in small skiff with sail heading out from dock]
- 101 Negros.
- 102 Native quartet [four, men in front of a building, three in parkas].
- 103 Alaska timber [man standing in field of grass on low bushes].
- 104a,b An old Eskimo village similar views of stumps of wood surrounded by grass].
- 105 R.C. Thetis [ship anchored off shore].

- 106 Orphanage during construction [two story wooden building with 3 men on scaffolding].
- 107 Station, winter [view of buildings snow on ground].
- 108 Reindeer station [2 buildings on a slight rise with 3rd under construction].
- 109 Seonova, Thelma and shoes [one person in tent doorway, the other sitting on ground].
- 110 Station cemetery [elevated graves in foreground, buildings behind].
- 111 Sunrise and sundog [scenics of sunrise, winter scene].
- 112 Igloo [several low sod covered dwellings].
- 113 Four pupils [5 young Eskimos in parkas, standing in snow].
- 114 Drying Tom Cod (racks of fish drying).
- 115 Rev. Tjernagel, family and friends [group of 9 people in fur parkas].

4 reels, 8mm film, b&w, color, ca. 1945. There is no identification on the film carton to associate with the following information from donor files:

- [1] Reindeer dogs, white whale, salmon (2 copies made by Loman about 1945 for the Polar Explorers.) Drying Arctic Terns, baby into and out of parka [400 ft.]
- [2] Nome - flowers, business district, Tom Copping residence, July 4th blanket toss. [200 ft.]
- [3] Golovin, WHite Mountain, Elim, Koyuk, Teller, moving day King Island. [300 ft.]
- [4] Launching tugs, launching barges, litering [?] Kotzebue [300 ft.]

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rev. 9/21/2004*