

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Barker, James H., Photographer

James H. Barker Photograph Collection, ca. 1880s-1940s

PCA 163

[Kuskokwim River region, Bethel, Moravian Missions
and Eskimo culture views, 1880's - 1940's]

1076 images

Revised: 2/5/03

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

Mr. Barker's negative file number is located on the verso of the contact sheets. Anyone interested in reproductions will need to contact him and include his file number with a description of the view. As of February 2003, that information is as follows:

James Barker Photography
4700 Drake St.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 479-2107
email: jbarker@icefog.net

BIO or HISTORICAL NOTE

James H. Barker came to Alaska in 1974 after studying at the Art Center School in Los Angeles, California and being a free-lancing as a commercial and scientific photographer in Washington State and the San Francisco Bay area and received 2nd place in the Time/Life Magazine Photo Essay competition in 1993 and was a Time/Life Eisenstaedt Awards finalist in 1998. He spent the 1996 and 1998 seasons at U.S. stations in Antarctica and outlying field camps. He was curator of photography for *Crossroads Alaska, 1994*, the Smithsonian Institute's major exhibition on Siberian and Alaskan Natives and has exhibited work at the Field Museum in Chicago, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian in New York, and the Museum of Arts and Sciences in San Francisco and major museums in Alaska. Publications include *Always Getting Ready: Yup'ik Eskimo Subsistence in Western Alaska*, and "The Long Cold Journey of Ice Station Sheba," *Smithsonian Magazine*, September 1998. Barker is a visiting instructor of photography at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Barker located and copied these images in the mid-seventies while he was living in Bethel. They are the result of his grant-funded research of early historical views of the Bethel-Kuskokwim River regions. The library received contact sheets of the photographs and photocopies of his research card files.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The contact sheet contains prints of the negative strip, up to 35 images per sheet. The card file information is organized by village or town and includes the source of the photograph, dates and any other information available. Information in quotes was obtained by Mr. Barker during an interview or was written by an informant. Other collections or photographers included in the collection: Moravian Archives, Gonzaga University, John (?) Felder (Bethel), Hartmann and Weinland. Some photographs were taken by Ferdinand Drebert and may contain the letter, "D", to the right of the image. Drebert's negative number may also be noted.