

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Wood, Ira and Walter

Ira and Walter Wood Photograph Collection, 1911-1929

PCA 191

Views of people and buildings in the Iditarod area;  
riverboats on the Iditarod river;  
miscellaneous activities, 1911-1929

INTRODUCTION

This collection contains selected views of the Iditarod area from 1911-1929. They were loaned to the State Library for copying by Catherine and Michael Girsdansky of Mt. Kisco, New York and are part of a larger group of photographs collected by Ira Wood, Mrs. Girsdansky's uncle. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wood, spent 7 years or more in Iditarod in the 20's. Walter Wood owned a lumber company with his 2 brothers, Charles and Ira Wood, and Mrs. Walter Wood was the postmistress. The small stern wheel river boats *Nancy Belle* and *Daisy Belle* were owned and piloted by the Wood brothers.

**INVENTORY**

- 1 Navigation, Iditarod, Alaska. [crowded dock area with piles of lumber and people boarding river boats]. (Clemons, #7911)
- 2 Tatiana Marie Demientieff, Holy Cross, 1917. [full length portrait of young girl wearing a hooded full length parka with fur trim; nicknamed "Snowflake".]
- 3 Prairie Belle, riverboat owned by Ira Wood. [starboard view; docked.]
- 4 Prairie Belle and Nancy Belle, riverboats owned by Ira Wood. [bow views of the docked boats; Little Delta beyond.]
- 5 Ice going out below Iditarod [expanse of ice filled river; men on beach at left].
- 6 Paul Drazonovitch and Paddy Savage with load of wood [team of 3 horses pulling sled filled with wood].
- 7 [Wood home in Iditarod in 1922; front view of 1 1/2 story wooden structure.]
- 8 [Iditarod street with warehouse and Miners and Merchants Bank on left; boardwalk on right.]
- 9 [Two story wooden structure in which the Iditarod Post Office was located.]
- 10 [Side view of U.S. Mail plane moored on Iditarod River. Pilot's name was Bennett].
- 11 [*Nancy Belle* at dock; man in second window; 2 flags flying]
- 12 "The Miners Home" and Big Mike Black [saloon building with man seated to left of doors.]
- 13 [Iditarod buildings with building on left housing Mutchler Bros. freight office.]
- 14 Deserted Indian village [group of small wooden structures; man on right standing on grass covered mound].
- 15 Float plane at Iditarod, 1929 [pilot climbing into cockpit; buildings along shore at left].
- 16 Ivan [Ephram?] Dementieff, wife and children [group of 7 adults, a young boy and a baby]

- 17 Nine Mile Roadhouse [one story log building; unidentified man standing in snow covered yard.]
- 18 Shageluk Public School [3 people (Harry Panter on right) and one child in front of school].
- 19 Ira Wood, 1928. [side view of man seated in chair; table on left; phonograph player on right].
- 20 [Ira Wood, right; Paul Drazonovich, center with man on left unidentified; buildings of Iditarod, beyond; saws and wood pile on left].