

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Marshall, Robert, 1901-1939

Robert Marshall Photograph Collection, 1929

PCA 197

24 photographs, b&w
2 hand-drawn maps

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wilderness advocate and forester Robert Marshall was born in New York on January 2, 1901. He graduated from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1924, earned a master's degree at Harvard University in 1925, and a PhD. at the Johns Hopkins Laboratory of Plant Physiology in 1930. Marshall began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1925 and in 1933 became head forester of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in 1937, Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands for the U.S. Forest Service. He is the author of several books, influential articles and government reports on wilderness and forestry. He was a long-distance wilderness hiker and outspoken supporter for the need to preserve wilderness. He was a founding member and major financial contributor of the Wilderness Society. One million acres of wilderness in Montana was named in his honor (the Bob Marshall Wilderness.) He died in his sleep November 11, 1939 at age 38. [From: dust jacket, "Arctic Village," c. 1991, UAF Press]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This is a collection of 24 photographs with descriptions showing the terrain along the North Fork of the Koyukuk River north of Wiseman, Alaska. The file includes two maps of the Koyukuk and Hammond River drainages by Robert Marshall and others.

Marshall was in the region during the summers of 1929, 1930, and 1931 and the winter of 1930-31, studying tree-growth at its northernmost limit and mapping the area. For an account and additional information, see his "Reconnaissance of the Northern Koyukuk Valley, Alaska," in MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA, 1931, pp. 247-256. (U.S. Geological Survey BULLETIN No. 844-E located at QE75 .B9 844-E, in the Historical Collections).

INVENTORY

Folder 1

- 1 Wiseman, our jumping-off place, 200 miles airline from railroad or automobile, and 1500 miles as supplies must be hauled on the rivers [view from across the river].
- 2 Pioneers of Alaska, men who have been isolated from the outside world for from 20 to 31 years. Billy Burke, Aze Wilcox, Jess Allen, Martin Slisco, Smithy Wanamaker, Carl Frank, George Huey, Pete Davey, Jack Hood, Earl Workman. Aze and Jack have never seen an auto [full length group portrait].
- 3 Primitive navigation at Wiseman [man paddling low open boat].
- 4 Mosquito protection by day [Robert Marshall (left) and an unidentified man in mosquito net hats].
- 5 Mosquito protection by night. Glacier Creek Camp [man at campfire near tent].
- 6 Niggerhead country at mouth of Bonanza Creek.
- 7 North Fork of the Koyukuk flowing by island (left) where we were almost marooned. Low water on way out. Compare with (23).

- 8 Barren plateau north of Slatepile Mt., scene of our all night retreat from the mosquitoes (July 31). Gates to the Arctic in center background.
- 9 Frigid Crags, west pillar of the Gates.
- 10 Boreal, east pillar of the Gates.
- 11 Most northerly timber in Anatovic [Anaktuvuk] Pass Creek drainage. Valley of Precipices and Arctic Divide in distance.
- 12 Hanging Glacier Mt. and Boreal from camp on Anatovic [Anaktuvuk] [river in foreground].
- 13 Gates to the Arctic from camp on Anatovic [Anaktuvuk] [mountains from riverbank].
- 14 Matterhorn, Hanging Glacier, Boreal from Slatepile Mt. [mountains beyond river valley].
- 15 West face of Valley of Precipices [river and mountains].
- 16 200 ft. waterfall and 1500 feet of cascades on S.W. fork of Anatovic [Anaktuvuk] Pass Creek .
- 17 Camp just below the Arctic Divide, 101 miles from the closest human being. Here the episode with grizzlies occurred. August 5 [overall view of camp near stream].
- 18 The Arctic Divide [grassy slope and mountains].
- 19 Bare mountains just south of the Arctic Divide.
- 20 Valley of the Upper North Fork [overall view].
- 21 "The flooded North Fork was turbulent and unfordable." August 9 [from rocky bank].
- 22 The Matterhorn of the Koyukuk [view from riverbed].
- 23 Same as (7) but on way back during floods [North Fork of the Koyukuk].
- 24 The end [Robert Marshall (right) and unidentified man on path; buildings at left].
- 25 "Reconnaissance map of North Fork of Koyukuk and Hammond River Drainages in Northern Alaska," by Robert Marshall, Jess Allen, Alexander Retzlaf, August 1929 [line map showing camp sites, named peaks and the Arctic-Pacific Divide].
- 26 Robert Marshall. Wiseman, Alaska [detailed line map of the North Fork Koyukuk River from Clear Creek north to the Arctic-Pacific Divide].