

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Averill, Roscoe "Dan" and Margaret P.

Roscoe "Dan" and Margaret P. Averill Photograph Collection, ca. 1900-1961

PCA 203

101 photographs  
1 leaf: poem

Revised by: Kay Shelton  
July 2001

**ACQUISITION:** Jerry Shea of La Habra, California donated his uncle's photograph collection to the library in 1982. When he visited the library in July 2001, he identified his relatives in several of the photographs. Acc. #1982-007

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing; however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** The photographs were received in no order. They have been arranged by geographic location and/or subject. Most are [postcard] size; many are photograph [postcard]s.

## BIOGRAPHY

Roscoe "Dan" Averill was born in Machias, Maine in 1879; came to Washington State to work until 1898 when he left for Alaska and the Klondike Gold Rush. He prospected the Iditarod, Koyukuk, Tanana and Fortymile Rivers from 1900-1910 before getting a mail contract with his partner, Jack Snow. Their headquarters were at a settlement they named Ruby. He also owned the Paystreak Saloon in Ruby with Jack Snow as a silent partner.

Dan Averill married Margaret P. Shea in Wiseman, Alaska in 1915. According to their nephew, Jerry Shea, they met in the Paystreak Saloon, where she was one of the dance girls. They remained in Alaska until their move to Bell, California in 1927. Both remained active in Alaska affairs and were officers in the Alaska-Yukon Club in Los Angeles. They had no children.

Mr. Averill died in 1967 and is buried in Long Beach, California although his wish was to have his ashes spread on the Yukon. Mrs. Averill died in 1971 and is also buried in Long Beach.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT:

101 images. Many of Ruby, 1910-1911, including views of mining activities, community events, people, dog teams and river boats. Miscellaneous postcards of other Alaskan towns (Fairbanks, Skagway, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Koyukuk River, Russian Mission, Flat, Iditarod, Loudon, Tanana); steamboats on Yukon River; 1930s -1960s group photographs of Alaska-Yukon Club (California) activities.

## INVENTORY

- 1-12 Buildings: log cabins, some with gardens, interior Alaska
- 8 Native woman standing in front of log cabin. On verso: Kobuk (Indian) trapper's cabin at South Fork.
- 13. Anvik (?)
- 14. Big Delta: bison herd. photo credit: COOP. [postcard]
- 15. Fairbanks: Third Ave. hotel, J. H. Patten, proprietor. [postcard]
- 16. Fairbanks: Main Street: dog team and spectators in front of U.S. Post Office and Court House
- 17. Fairbanks: Person standing on waterfront; across water is warehouse with advertisements on wall, including Hardware and Machinery and others
- 18. Fairbanks: People rowing boats on Chena with buildings in background including H.C. Davis Sash and Door Factory, Natatorium.

19. Fairbanks: People rowing boats on Chena with buildings in background including Novelty Store, Palmer & Field Groceries, N.C. Co.
20. Fairbanks: Log cabin building
21. Fairbanks: winter scene of frozen river (cleared for skating?) and downtown in background
22. Fairbanks: "Creamer's Diary - Fairbanks, Alaska." Griffin's (no. 194) [postcard]  
Verso: to Mr. and Mrs. Dan Averill, 4757 Gage Ave, Bell, Calif. 7/23/58: Dear Pals-It won't be long until you will be on your way to the convention. The Andersons have made reservations at the California Hotel. So I know you can contact them their, Much love, Clara. (Clara Slater, 341 Slater Street, Fairbanks, Alaska
23. Flat: "Gold St. Flat City, Alaska, 3-18-1911, "Clemens ? [postcard].
24. Iditarod: "Mail Team, Iditarod, Alaska, April 1911"
25. Iditarod: "Refugees from the Iditarod Fire, April 4, 1911." Red Cross. [postcard]
26. Louden [view of town on Yukon River] Verso: "Christmas Greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Cecil H. Clegg. Wishing you a Merry Christmas. 1911" [Christmas color print]
27. Ruby, Waterfront scene, 1911 (2 copies)
28. Ruby: tent on river, man and woman standing on shore
29. Ruby: group of men sitting on steps of tent, U. S. flag flying on pole. Verso: Court House, Ruby 1910
30. Ruby: street scene with log buildings, one store sign: Bloom's Hardware. Verso: water wagon Ruby
31. Ruby: "An earley [early] hangout in Ruby, Alaska. June 1911" [postcard]. Clemons
- 31a. Ruby: Paystreak Saloon "Ruby Alaska 1911" 8 x 10 copy print of damaged photo. The man standing at the far right is Dan Averill.
32. Russian Mission: waterfront view with church and government building; cut logs in foreground
33. Russian Mission: church and government building
34. Russian Mission: similar to 32, but shows end of government building
35. Skagway: group in front of trolley. Verso: Martin Itjen streetcar, on "Outside" trip 1930s..."

36. Skagway [postcard]: Two men behind display of mastadon tusks in front of P. E. Kern store. 1905. Addressed to R.N. Hilliary, Fairbanks, Alaska. Note on front: Oct. 1, 07, My Dear Children. Am well. Expect to be in by Alaska day. All hard at work. Some body has a birthday. Will talk of that later. With love, Mother
- 36a. Tanana: Verso: "On Youkon [Yukon] River in front of Tanana. Mrs. Madge Averill"
37. Wiseman: Verso: "Wiseman Nolan Creek"
- 38-43 Dog Teams
44. On verso: mail team
45. On verso: Mail team just below Ruby
46. On verso: Mail Team Yukon at Jessie's Road House
47. Man and a woman with dog team. Verso: Mr. and Mrs Sutherland; Dan Sutherland, later territorial delegate, ca. 1910. [postcard]
48. Verso: "The Russian plane with snow house built under wing to shelter men while excavating for bodies an engine. Engine was ripped from plane and found something like 100 feet farther on, as were also the bodies."
49. [postcard]: Wild Alaskan Deer. Ed Andrews (23)
50. Side of house with flowers in garden
51. Ice damage in Fairbanks, Pioneer Dock
52. Hoist and men with rocks in front
53. Church interior
54. Church exterior
55. Man (Dan Averill?) on river front with boat and house on barge in background
- 56-57 House: interior views
58. Men on sled drawn by three horses
59. Winter scene: sawing boards from log with long saw
60. [postcard]: Unidentified Athapaskan (?) couple
61. Three young men: "Yukon Indians"

62. Two native men and boy
63. Native man and woman. "Alaska Indian"
64. Three native men and boy with river and canoes behind them
65. Native family (women, men, and children) in front of loaded sled. Snow on ground.  
Verso: Eskimos on the Koyukuk river in Wiseman
66. Native children, Caucasian woman in front of building. Verso: School teacher with her class in Coldfoot in the Koyukuk.
67. Crowd scene
68. Man paddling with two women in canoe. Margaret Averill is woman in front.
69. Stern of barge
70. Barge on river. Verso: [Arcon?] going up the Koyukuk river north of the Arctic Circle
71. 1920s summer scene: Alaska Inn with people posing in front of store. From right: Dan Averill, and Aunt Madge (Margaret Averill); child in between is nephew, Dan Shea.
72. Winter scene: group of people, native and Caucasian, in front of woodpile and mountain.
73. Woman on hillside overlooking harbor with ships (Not Alaska?)
74. Two men seated in front of log cabin, one with book in hand
75. [Group posed in front of log cabin.] Verso: "I have taken some pictures that this one might interest you. They tell me your husband built this little house. Right to left: Mr. Hyde, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Toussaint, Mr. Adams. Mrs. L."
76. Skaters with brooms on frozen river; spectators on bridge in background
77. Studio view of woman (Margaret Averill?) seated in chair. [postcard].
78. Dan Averill, standing in front of building
79. Man and woman standing in what appears to be cut out with snow in background
80. Man standing holding snowshoes
81. Woman in front of building with fur stole in arms
82. Dan Averill in wool coat (probably not taken in Alaska)

83. Portrait of Margaret Averill
84. Alaska-Yukoners at table in Long Beach, California. Margaret Averill, Pearl Hull, and Carl Larsen (Karl Larsen?). ca. 1940-50.
85. Alaska Yukon picnic in California, 1961. Those identified include Dan Averill, Margaret Averill, Pearl Hull, Carl Larsen (Karl Larsen?)
86. Panorama: Annual Alaska-Yukon Club Picnic - Sycamore Grove, June 22, 1933. Dan Averill and Margaret Averill identified.
- 87-88 Scenic views
89. Wasilla: cabin, Cottonwood Creek. Verso: The water from the swamp seeps away into Wasilla's lakes. [postcard]
90. "A Wireless Message in the Moonlight"
91. Finger Lake views: On verso: Salmon found 85 miles from salt water. [postcard].
92. Finger Lake views. Finger Lake No. 2: Rainbow Trout. Little Susitna
93. "Nickle Lake, Admiralty"
94. Admiralty Lake
95. Winter scene: Three river steamboats: Delta, Reliance, Tanana
96. Two men poling riverboat; two women seated with gear midships. Man in stern holding a cigar is Dan Averill.
97. Two men (Dan Averill in stern) poling riverboat, two women seated with gear midships. On verso: Poling up the Koyukuk. Captain Green in rear of boat.
98. Steamboat *Reliance* with man standing on woodpile in front
99. Steamboat *Prospector*: "Last Boat Leaving Dawson for Whitehorse, October 19, 1905." O.C. Peck photo
100. Riverboat: *General Jeff Davis*
101. Waterfront scene with ships, Pioneer Hotel and California Saloon. June 21, 1908
102. Poem Typescript: On the Dawson City Trail