

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Sam O. White, 1891-1976

Sam O. White Photograph Collection, ca. 1922-1960

PCA 205

1 2" box
95 images

Arranged by Bob DeArmond
Revised by Kay Shelton, 2004

ACQUISITION: Donated in 1965 (1982?) by Robert N. (Bob) DeArmond. (Acc. No. 1982-011)

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: Copyprints from the originals. The images were sleeved in Mylar and numbered. Bob DeArmond added notes/captions to verso of photographs.

Biography

Sam White arrived in Alaska in 1922 as a member of a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey team. He dreamed of coming north during his boyhood days in Maine. One of nine children, he was born in 1891 and worked for the International Boundary Survey before and after two years in the U.S. Army during World War I.

He became an agent (game warden) for the Alaska Game Commission in 1927 and worked out of Fairbanks. He first used dog teams to patrol the area northeast of Fairbanks but in 1928 he learned to fly and used an airplane for patrol work. He became the first Alaska Game Commission warden to patrol his area by plane.

An experienced bush pilot, White worked for the Commission until Sept. 1941 when he resigned. He stayed in Fairbanks and flew for Wien Airlines. In World War II he flew charter planes for the U.S. Air Force. Following the end of the war, he returned to fly in Alaska until retiring in the early 1960s.

(Source: *Alaska Magazine*, April 1977, p. 63)

Scope and Contents Note

Many of the views in this collection were used to illustrate Sam White's story of his work in Alaska; serialized in the *ALASKA SPORTSMAN* magazine from December 1964 through November 1965. Most depict airplanes and villages in interior Alaska. Subjects include Alaska Game Commission personnel and offices, airplane crashes, the Wien brothers (Merrill, Sig and Noel), and localities, such as Ft. Yukon and Tonzana.

Inventory

- 1 Sam White [head and shoulders portrait].
- 2 Fokker D-17. The first cabin plane in Alaska. Noel Wien and Jerry Moore, ARR Conductor.
- 3 Mel Gisky and Noel Wien. [Standing beside plane]
- 4 J.L. Anderson [standing beside a Wien Alaska ski plane. N14092]
- 5 Jack Burrington and Barney Lashley, oldtimers of Fairbanks.
- 6 Trappers leaving Fort Yukon for trap lines. Aug. 1928. Fred Schroeder on beach; W.C. Curtis, left, with pole [barge, skiff and motor launch involved in the launching]
- 7 Fairbanks flood. August 1937. [view of Samson Hardware. Co.]
- 8 Draining the oil [close-up of plane's engine].

- 9 Kako Lake, near Russian Mission. [Dog team and 5 men under the wing of a Wien plane]
- 10 On Kuskokwim River S.W. of McGrath. 1941. Sgt. Pearce Cpl. Bennecke, Sam White, Sgt. Mel Griffith. [snow scene; four men gathered in front of a tent.]
- 11 Chandalar Village, now Venetie 1928. [distant view with buildings scattered on the flats.]
- 12 Dan McKenzie and two wolves killed at the Soda Springs, Moose Lake 1928. [Hides McKenzie is holding up are at least 6 feet from tip of tail.]
- 13 Tom Gerard, Earl Borland, Freddy Moller. [posed with the ski plane ANNA.]
- 14 Merrill Wien and moose. 1957. [close-up of Wien seated on the dead moose.]
- 15 The Birch River canoe trip [unidentified man with long pole standing on rocks beside canoe].
- 16 Our home on the Dry Creek patrol, Dec. 1939. [close-up of tent/snowshoes.]
- 17 A. Wilkin's Expedition crack-up, Fairbanks 1926. [group of men viewing the damaged plane.]
- 18 At Fairbanks--Wilkins plane (?) [close-up of wrecked plane].
- 19 NC422N and my [Sam White's] hanger at Fairbanks. [man beside plane].
- 20 Men left to right: Harold Woodward, Arthur "Doc" Brown, Sam White. [with 4 unidentified women in front of plane].
- 21 NC422N on the Yukon [River] at Eagle, 1931. [ski-equipped plane]
- 22 Phil, Andy, Mary Eva, Hannah, David. [family group portrait]
- 23 A little mishap at Iditarod, no damage. 9844 Travel Air. [skis of plane resting on grassy slope].
- 24 Hudson Bay graveyard--dates back to 1840. Fort Yukon, Alaska. Farthest point North on Yukon River.
- 25 [Fort Yukon, Alaska. Sign identifies the Fort Yukon Hotel.]
- 26 Same as #25, slightly different view.
- 27 Warren Tillman and Noel Wien. [standing beside plane].

- 28 [Eight people on porch of Tanana Roadhouse; four identified as: Mrs. Tom McLain, second from left; Tom McLain, third from left; Joe Romaker, fourth from left; and Mrs. Romaker, second from right.]
- 29 Old Alaska Game Commission Office, Fort Yukon, mid-1930's. [exterior view].
- 30 [Fort Yukon (?). H.E. Carter General Merchandise store in foreground.]
- 31 [close-up of plane's wheels dug halfway into the "runway."]
- 32 Lake Minchumina--Mt. McKinley. [winter view].
- 33 Flat, 1941. [Pile of wood-probably Railway ties]
- 34 Plane NC8419. Tri-motor.
- 35 Alabam La Boyteaux. [head and shoulders portrait]
- 36 Ray Renshaw. [with hand on propeller blade].
- 37 Railroad bridge across Tanana [River] at Nenana.
- 38 NC422N. 1931. [bi-plane with cargo on snowy field].
- 39 Pilgrim. [plane in front of Pollack Flying Service hangar.]
- 40 [Noel Wien in full winter regalia beside ski plane. Picture is inscribed "To my good friend Sam White. Noel Wien"]
- 41 [3 unidentified men with gear waiting for ski plane, taxiing on the frozen river.]
- 42 Sgt., later Major, Griffith. [full length view].
- 43 A forced landing. [3 smiling unidentified men.]
- 44 Death at Bethel. [Plane has landed upside down.]
- 45 Mail plane. [3 men beside 2 planes].
- 46 [2 huge stacks of what appears to be railroad ties.]
- 47 Hudson Stuck Memorial Hosp.--Fort Yukon, Alaska
- 48 U.S. Gov't Native School-Fort Yukon, Alaska. North of the Arctic Circle.
- 49 Trouble in the front office. Kaltag. 1935. [A plane tipped over with tail in the air. Three men "holding' it in this position.]

- 50 Norris Johnson (Killed in crash in mid-1930's), Fritz Wien, Oscar Bye, Herman Lerdahl, Noel Wien, Sig Wien. [standing beside plane].
- 51 Sam O. White [In game warden uniform, with hand on propeller].
- 52 [Sam O. White and unidentified man.]
- 53 Jack O'Connor, Kay J. Kennedy, and Sam O. White [standing beside pick-up.]
- 54 Tonzana, 1934. [Close-up of plane with tent in background. Probably a game commission camp.]
- 55 Tonzana, 1935. [close-up of plane.77.]
- 56 Alatna 1931. NC422N. [close-up view].
- 57 Doc Crepe. [Leaning on a plane, which shows a heart with "Fairbanks, the Golden Heart of Alaska" painted on the side.]
- 58 Sam's ship on the windswept Yukon at Nation River, 1933 [plane anchored at bank of river].
- 59 Leaving Fairbanks for Koyukuk. [ski plane is just airborne over frozen river.]
- 60 Haakon Christenson at McKinley Park. [Plane on the ground with McKinley in the background.]
- 61 Joe Crosson in Siberia. [beside ship NANUK.]
- 62 C.S. Rhode and ?. [Two men in front of cabin in the woods,]
- 63 U.S. Air Force Charter at Chandalar Lake, 1942. Fairchild 71-NC10623. [ski plane on the ice, mountains in background.]
- 64 Chandalar Village. 1928. [winter view]
- 65 Sam's first plane on ice at Nenana. [about 30 school children, several teachers and Sam White posed in front of the plane].
- 66 Boundary Patrol [3 unidentified men in winter garb with snowshoes leaning against the ski plane, #NC542N].
- 67 Hamilton plane, wrecked in Siberia. [Wien Alaska Airways U.S., mail plane]
- 68 Star Airlines Bellanca. 7 died. [wreckage on the Mountainside]
- 69 Nicolai Village. [winter view].

- 70 Air force crews. [2 unidentified men seated inside a cabin.]
- 71 Air force crew. [4 unidentified men seated inside what appears to be a barracks]
- 72 Hungry Lake. Stony River. [NC-14168. 77 on side of ski plane on the river ice.]
- 73 [Cabins in the woods, one appears to be built on piling; not a cache.]
- 74 [Unidentified woman in front of a log cabin.]
- 75 [Unidentified village.]
- 76 [Unidentified lady]
- 77 [A grouping of approximately 8 buildings--2 unidentified men stand in road.]
- 78 [Float plane with unidentified man in full uniform standing on the pontoon]
- 79 [Herd of caribou.]
- 80 [Two men working atop a plane.]
- 81 [Pacific Alaska Airways float plane at shoreline; 2 unidentified men outside plane].
- 82 [Ski plane in the snow. Wien.]
- 83 Sam White.
- 84 [Sam White.]
- 85 [Interior of church. (Russian Orthodox)]
- 86 [Interior of church. (Russian Orthodox)]
- 87 [Snow scene of unidentified village.]
- 88 [Snow scene of unidentified village with unidentified man in foreground with equipment.]
- 89 NC422N at Tanana Crossing, March 1932 [3 men in front of plane; snow on landing strip].
- 90 Sam White on Yukon River above Circle, 1925 [White, dog and gear in canoe].
- 91 Dan McKenzie, packer for Sam White at Goodpaster River Camp [McKenzie beside tent].
- 92 [Horses, used by Sam White, standing near smudge used for mosquito control.]

- 93 Fort Yukon, 1928, 1. to r; Jack Donald, Mary Burgess, Sam White [and] Fred Schroder [in front of old Swallow plane]
- 94 [Four horses between smoldering camp fires to keep mosquitoes away.]

*g:/hist/~pca's/pca205
rev. 3/2004/khs*