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Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

U.S. Arctic Health Research Center

U.S. Arctic Health Research Center Photograph Collection, 1956-1959

PCA 220

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Dorothy Whitney was born in 1913 in Webster Groves, Missouri. She graduated from Washington University in 1936 with a degree in public health nursing and moved to Alaska's Matanuska Valley in 1939. In 1945, she became the territory's director of public health nursing in Juneau. After earning a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene she returned to Alaska in 1956 and worked as a personnel officer for the Dept. of Health and Social Services in Anchorage. Later she became the writer-editor for the Arctic Health Research Center (AHRC). Congress established the AHRC in Anchorage in 1948 as part of the U.S. Public Health Service. AHRC and Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage collaborated on studies in biology and health in the arctic.

Whitney returned to Juneau in 1974 and headed a special training project for itinerant public health nurses. She retired in 1976 and died June 14, 1986, in Sitka.

The AHRC moved from Anchorage to Fairbanks in 1968 and closed in 1973. Epidemiology activities remained in Anchorage and were adopted by the Ecological Investigations Program of Center for Disease Control. The unit eventually became known as the Arctic Investigations Program (AIP), a division of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC. [Source: <http://www2.cdc.gov/ncidod/aip/About/history.asp> Accessed 2002 Dec. 11.]

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Major subjects covered in the collection include:

Eskimo methods of food gathering and preservation;  
personnel of the Public Health Service and their patients;  
effects of oil exploration on the tundra in the North Slope area;  
miscellaneous views of Alaskan towns and villages and community activities.

Some photographs were taken by Dr. J.C. Cutler and Dr. Christine A. Heller.

## INVENTORY

1. Dr. Harold Furnelle.... in laboratory at Arctic Research Center in Anchorage.
- 2-3. Bethel airfield [exterior views of airfield buildings]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.
4. "Limousine transportation" at Bethel air field [passengers and luggage on flat bed truck]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.
5. The PHS Alaska Native Hospital at Bethel [aerial view of hospital complex].
6. [Four children, showing wide range of emotion, lined up to receive an immunization shot from a public health nurse at Bethel.]
- 7-8. Eek waterfront [similar views of buildings along the water]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.
9. Eek waterfront [boat construction, center; water beyond]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.
10. Graveyard and church at Eek [crosses, foreground; church at left, beyond graveyard]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.
11. [Exterior view of a house and storage hut in Eek.] J.C. Cutler, photographer.
12. [Resident of Eek getting water by bucket through hole in ice.]
13. [Rig, without pump, being used to jet the well at Eek; buildings beyond.] J.C. Cutler, photographer.
14. [Exterior of buildings in Eek, including outdoor storage hut, center.] J.C. Cutler; photographer.
15. [Exterior of building used by AHRC for storage and workhouse j
16. [Dr. Scott and Dr. Terry in school at Eek; no students.] J.C. Cutler, photographer.
17. [School at Eek; chairs on tables; writing on chalkboard.]
18. Water pump and electrical generator house for the school at Eek [exterior view].
19. Schoolmaster's house at Eek [exterior view with village in background]. J.C. Cutler, photographer.

20. [Exterior view of an outdoor privy at Eek.]
21. [Collection of barrels used -for waste disposal containers by Public Service Hospital at Kotzebue.]
22. [Garbage and rubbish dump on bank of Kuskokwim River at McGrath.] J.C. Cutler, photographer.
23. Tug and oil barge next to garbage dump [see #22] on the Kuskokwim River at McGrath.
24. [Home of whale bone and sod in Point Hope; exterior view.]
25. [Two people cutting seal carcass.]
26. Dr. Christine Heller, AHRC Nutritionist, interviews Eskimo leader on beach at Shishmaref.
27. Woman, with young boy, preparing salmon for drying racks at summer fish camp on Kobuk River.
28. [Herd of walrus on beach; two men, foreground.]
29. [Man skinning a walrus.]
30. [Two young girls standing beside fish drying rack; tents beyond.]
31. An elderly Eskimo woman, on Nelson Island, stringing herring with grass for drying racks. Christine Heller, photographer.
32. Eskimo woman smearing seal poke with blood--Shishmaref. Christine Heller, photographer.
33. [Eskimo woman] cutting seal blubber in small cubes for storing in seal poke-Shishmaref. Christine Heller, photographer.
34. Eskimo woman stuffing prepared seal poke for storage--Shishmaref. Christine Heller, photographer.
35. Ling Cod caught in fish traps--Newtok [person taking fish from trap; cod on ice, foreground]. Christine Heller, photographer.
36. Black Fish caught in traps--Newtok [emptying fish from traps to ice]. Christine Heller, photographer.
37. Butchering white whale, Kotzebue [people and whale on beach]. Christine Heller, Photographer.
38. Dipnetting for White Fish, Kasigluk [man, with nets, standing in skiffs]. Christine Heller, photographer.
39. Eskimo infant, Shishmaref, being examined during orthopedic clinic.
40. [Closeup of young Eskimo child from Nelson Island.]

41. Eskimo family from St. Lawrence island [parents and 3 young children].
42. [Two young Eskimo girls at Kwigillingok clinic.]
43. Bath time at Bethel hospital [four young children in small round tubs].
44. Airview of Bethel, Alaska in winter.
45. Eskimo mother and children [3] from Newtok.
46. Eskimo mother and child from Point Hope.
47. [Eskimo] mother and child from Anaktuvuk Pass.
48. Eskimo women cutting fish on beach, Tununak.
49. [Eskimo mother holding young child; village of Akiak]
50. Sod hut at Point Hope; whalebone posts, foreground.
51. Eskimo family from Newtok [two adults and three children].
52. Bush plane and dog sled [man loading cargo].
53. Eskimo child with native-made doll, surrounded by seal carcasses, Chevak.
54. Eskimo woman and child, Shungnak [log building, background].
- 55-56. Mary Ann Moses and son, Newtok [woman is sewing mukluks].
57. Eskimo family [of four] inside summer tents at fish camp, Teller Mission.
58. [Eskimo] father and daughter, Newtok.
59. [Three] Eskimo children posed under drying racks full of seal meat.
60. Eskimo mother carrying child, Tununak, Neslon.
61. [Eskimo mother from Bethel spoon feeding young baby.]
62. Eskimo mother and children from Akiak [all are wearing fur parkas].
63. Eskimo family group from the Bethel area [two adults and four children].
64. [Group of children and adults, Barrow.]
65. [Four young children on steps in front of white building.]
66. Young Eskimo girl in fur trimmed parka.

67. [Nurse (?) giving shot to young child; other children watching.]
68. [Full face view of white-haired woman; scarf on head.]
69. [Two women in parkas beside small plane.]
70. [Three people working at planked table; house trailer, beyond.]
71. [Young child on woman's lap receiving shot in right arm.]
72. [Group of people waiting to board small sea plane. contact print.]
73. The sweat bath house; 1. to r.; Dr. Luther Terry, NIH, Public Health Nurse and a Sanitary Engineer [standing outside small wooden structure].
74. [Public Health nurse discussing chemotherapy program to five village council members.]
75. [Elderly Eskimo man lying on bed- contact print.]
76. [Interior view of kitchen area of small house.]
77. [Cot in corner of room-, also table, stool and chest.]
78. Alaska graveyard [crosses marking graves, foreground; buildings, beyond].
79. [Row of houses built for Civil Aeronautics Authority employees in Alaska.]
80. [Chart showing 10 leading causes of death in Alaska and U.S. in 1954.]
81. Mortality rates for certain leading causes--Alaska Natives, 1949-1956 [graph showing changes in mortality rates.]
82. Pingos, ice filled mounds, on North Slope. Summer, 1969.
83. Erosion from... skinning tundra to build a haul road, North Slope. Summer 1959 [aerial view].
84. Waste disposal pit showing damage from.... vehicles....on soft tundra. North Slope--Summer 1969.
85. Typical drill site near the Arctic Ocean. North Slope--Summer 1969 [looking down on drill rig and buildings].
86. Drill rig in foothills of the Brooks Range. North Slope--Summer 1969.
87. Remains of an Eskimo sod house. North Slope--Summer 1969 [two men beside door of house].
88. Arctic poppies in tundra. North Slope--Summer 1969 [group of blossoms in grass].
89. Tundra wildflowers. North Slope--Summer 1969 [group of blossoms in grass].

90. Grayling... from Sagavanirktok River, near Franklin Bluffs. North Slope--Summer 1969 [man holding small fish].