

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Thiele, Karl, Collector

Karl Thiele Photograph Collection, 1924-1926

PCA 221

INTRODUCTION

Earl Rossman inscribed these views to Karl Thiele, a friend and Alaska pioneer who served as Secretary of Alaska from 1925-1933. Several views were taken in Southeast Alaska but most were taken in the Arctic.

Earl Rossman recorded his Alaska experiences in the book *Black Sunlight; a Log of the Arctic* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1926). In 1923, after photographing Southeast Alaska natives and losing the motion picture footage in a sinking boat, Rossman decided to see more of Alaska and photograph Eskimo life. Assisted by Governor Scott C. Bone and Karl Thiele, Rossman traveled to Nome and Barrow with William T. Lopp on the vessel, *Boxer*. The plan to produce a motion picture film of Eskimo life had problems with the participants. However, the contacts made by Rossman in the North led to photography work on the Detroit Arctic Expedition of 1926 headed by Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins, but only one photo of this work is included in the Collection.

1. [Earl Rossman, with camera on tripod, standing in front of Auke Lake; Mendenhall Glacier beyond.]
2. [Earl Rossman, left and another man on beach surrounded by camping gear. Probably Southeast Alaska.]
3. [Earl Rossman, right standing behind box camera which is on a tripod; man on left is probably Scott Bone.]
4. Bogosloff seals [seals in surf; small island in background].

5. [Man on snow beside seal]
6. At Seal Rocks near Seward, Alaska [seals on rocks].
7. Eskimo seal hunters, Arctic Ocean [2 men; one in boat, the other on ice with gun].
8. Outfitting for the walrus hunt [four men in parkas in open boat.]
9. Within the Arctic Circle after walrus [men in 2 open boats; surrounded by icebergs].
10. Dragging our skin canoe over the roof of the frozen Arctic Ocean; whaling trip - April 26 to June 13, 1924.
11. Whaling camp - Arctic Ocean -30 miles off shore. Eskimos on lookout at midnight [boat on shore, men on right].
12. The whalers [boat on shore, men on right near ice formation].
13. Kivalina's Igloo [dogs in snow near igloo].
14. My lead dog [face of husky dog].
15. [A camp on snow with several dog teams in harness; sleds and people].
16. My camp on Arctic Ocean ice [Rossman with dog team and sled; tent on left].
17. [Close up of Rossman and a sled dog.]
18. With Earl Rossman in the Arctic [Rossman, left and 3 other men; harnessed reindeer and sleds].
19. This is how I recorded a dog race at Wainwright -- we came in second [Rossman with camera on dog driven sled; other men and dogs beyond].
20. "Crossing an open lead--Arctic Ocean in late May, 1924" [team of dogs directed by man on the left to "mush" through broken ice].
21. "The open lead", Arctic Ocean--May 1924 [dog team running across broken ice; driver and sled at right].
22. "A dog's life in Arctic Alaska" [dog teams in harness resting on snow; people working near sleds].
23. Sentinels of the Polar Pack, Pt. Barrow, Alaska, 1924. [small icebergs near shore; choppy ocean beyond].

24. Atop Endicott Mts, head of John River entering Anaktuvuk Pass on March 26, 1926-- Detroit Arctic Expedition [Rossman in winter clothes beside camera on tripod; loaded sled at left].
25. "Rossman--John--Peter--Ahlook" Four of a kind [four children holding dolls and standing beside a small structure; all are wearing parkas].
26. Pt. Barrow--Alaska--Reindeer herd [large herd of reindeer grazing near water in which they are reflected; several herders among them].
27. Okogoluk from Wainwright--a real fellow [head to waist portrait of older Eskimo man wearing fur parka].
28. My Eskimo assistant at Wainwright, Alaska [head and shoulder portrait of Eskimo man].
29. Eskimo woman and child, Pt. Barrow, Alaska [head and shoulders portrait of woman and young baby].
30. [Earl Rossman behind camera on tripod; herd of reindeer in distance.]
31. Earl Rossman at Joe Hill's Fox ranch [man seated in doorway of small wooden building: 2 fox pelts hanging from rope, left center].
32. Perhaps U.S. Attorney General Daugherty who went to jail for the Teapot Dome Scandal, 1923. Acc. No. 2001-118
33. Albert B[acon] Fall. Acc. No. 2001-118
34. Major Geo. D. Beaumont, United States Marshal 1st Div. Acc. #No. 2001-118