Guide to Collection

Elite Studio

Elite Studio Photograph Collection, ca. 1910-1936

PCA 294

134 photographs (4 inches) Processed: 4/88
By: India Spartz

ACQUISITION: The negatives to this collection were donated by William Jorgenson of Juneau, Alaska and were part of the Winter and Pond materials that were donated in 1981. (Acc. # 1988-016.)

Accession #1990-065 was accessioned 11/9/1990 and added to PCA 294 on 4/3/2009. This collection was donated to the Alaska State Museum by Mary Moore Green, granddaughter of Mrs. Francis Moore in July of 1990. The Alaska State Museum transferred the collection to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections.

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 original negatives were copied by Ronald Klein. The photos are numbered and housed in mylar sheet protectors.
Biographical Note

Edwin C. Adams was born in Detroit, Michigan January 18, 1871 and came to Alaska during the 1898 Klondike gold rush. He traveled to Dawson where he worked in a photo studio which he eventually purchased (Adams & Larkin, and later, Adams & Co.). After moving to Juneau in 1917, he opened Elite Studio. Mr. Adams was well known in Juneau for his boxing abilities and served as local trainer for amateur boxers. He died in Juneau October 5, 1950, at age 79. He was married to Luella Mary Adams.

Scope and Contents

Accession #1990-065 is a collection of personal letters and photographs that Mr. Adams sent to his childhood friend Mrs. Francis Moore of Michigan. The letters date from 1909 to 1935 and cover many subjects and description about his life in Dawson City, Y.T. Canada, and Alaska as well as reminiscences of a shared childhood and adolescence in Michigan. There is also a folder of photographs and his hand drawn cartoons depicting his life and some of the big news events that happened in Juneau. The inventory for this collection is listed at the bottom of the inventory for PCA 294.

Inventory

1. Lights o' Juneau [overall night view from Douglas Island]. Winter & Pond
3. Juneau, Alaska [similar to #2]. (no. 11)
4. [Juneau waterfront and Alaska-Juneau Mill at right.]
5. Juneau, Alaska [view across Gastineau Channel at low tide from Douglas Island; Alaska-Juneau mill at right]. (no.16)
7. Juneau, Alaska, 1931 [view over downtown rooftops; Federal and Territorial Building at center].
8. Juneau, Alaska [view from hill looking down 5th Street and St. Ann’s Hospital complex].

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9. [Juneau; looking west over downtown area from the side of Mt. Roberts.]
10. [Juneau; bird's-eye view over the corner of Fourth and Harris Streets.]
11. Juneau, Alaska [houses on hillside; Governor's Mansion is at center right]. E.C. Adams (no. 404 or H04)
12. [No photo.]
13. Main Street, Juneau [winter view]. E.C. Adams (no. 101)
14. [South Franklin Street, Juneau, in winter; Winter & Pond Co. store at right.]
15. [Juneau; South Franklin Street in winter, with the Alaska-Juneau Mill in the background.]
16. [Juneau; Smith House and Juneau Dairy (in background) on Old Glacier Highway.]
17. Juneau [Behrends home (light colored, center) in winter, located at Fifth and Main Streets]. E.C. Adams (no. 111)
18. [Man and woman in large garden next to Hellenthal House at the corner of Goldbelt and Calhoun Streets.]
19. Fish at Juneau Cold Storage [from inside warehouse looking toward workers on loading dock].
20. Handling Fish at Juneau Cold Storage [men on loading dock].
21. Handling Fish at Juneau Cold Storage [men on loading dock].
22. Handling Fish at Juneau Cold Storage [men in warehouse door].
23. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [interior view of presses].
24. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [similar to 23].
25. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [laundry equipment in building].
27. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [large machine with rollers].
28. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [similar to 27].
29. Alaska Steam Laundry, Juneau, Alaska [laundry equipment].
30. Woodland Garden, Juneau, Alaska [customers in restaurant with stone fountain].
32. George Bros. Grocery Store, Juneau, Alaska [interior view].
33. [Three men and tractor in front of Marshall & Newman Co. office on South Franklin Street in Juneau.]
34. [First National Bank on Front Street, Juneau, at the corner of Seward Street, ca. pre-1925.]
35. [Draped horses, hearse and two men in front of undertaker's office at 4th and Gold Streets, Juneau.]
36. [Curio Shop and Democratic headquarters in the Horseshoe Building at Main and Front Streets, Juneau.] Blurred view.
37. Tractor sold by Geo. Forrest to Juneau Lumber Company, its First Load [six men with tractor loaded with planks].
38. [Three men and four taxis parked on the street in Juneau.]
39. High School Champions of South Eastern Alaska, 1933 [Juneau High School boys basketball team in the gym, with coach Elmer Wentland, middle].
40. [Juneau's DeMolay basketball team, ca. 1930. Front row (left to right): Lloyd "Kinky" Bayers, Ed Garnick, ____ Livie, Bob Davlim, Dave Reischel. Back row (left to right): Fred Harris, Karl Lindstrom, Elmer Lindstrom, Al Bloomquist.]
41. Moose Base Ball Team, Juneau, Alaska, 1927 [lined up near bleachers ______ Koski, Art MacKinnon (in hat) and Sinclair Brown (second, third and fourth from left at rear, respectively)].
42. Champions of Gastineau Channel, 1930 [Moose baseball team lined up near bleachers].
43. "Moose" Champions, Gastineau Base Ball League, 1936, Juneau, Alaska [lined up in field: Joe Werner (?) (first at left, standing), Art MacKinnon (in dark sweater, center), _____ Pegues and Jerry Godkin (standing fifth and sixth from left)].

44. American Legion Base Ball Team, Juneau, Alaska. 1932.

45. American Legion Base Ball Team Champions. Juneau City League, 1935 [lined up in field].


49. Mr. John W. Troy. Receiving the Oath of Office at Juneau as Governor of Alaska. April 19th, 1933.

50. 25th Session of the Grand Igloo of the Pioneers of Alaska at Juneau, 1933 [group portrait].


52. Anual [Annual] Roll Coll [Call], Juneau Elks, 1927 [large group of men in the Elks Hall].


54. Honor Society [the Juneau High School Torch Society posed in snow at side of a building, 1933. Robert Raven, advisor, standing at left].

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55. J Club [Juneau High School students posed outside building, 1933. Elmer Wentland standing at left].

56. Orchestra [Juneau High School orchestra on stage, 1933].

57. [Juneau High School faculty, 1933, standing in gymnasium. Robert Raven, Superintendent of Schools, at far left.]


59. [Juneau High School cast on stage in "The Haunted House," 1933.]

60. [Man seated at Kimball organ at Juneau High School.]

61. [Funeral; mourners seated around open casket, foreground.]

62. George Bro's Exhibit at Southeastern Fair, 1932 [display with model train].

63. George Bro's Exhibit at Southeastern Alaska Fair, 1932 [similar to 62].

64. Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. [display] at the Southeastern Alaska Fair, 1932.

65. [Alaska Juneau mill from the water.]

66. [Tailings dump below Alaska Juneau mill with Douglas Island in the background.]

67. Map showing main adits of the Ebner Gold Mining Co. and the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Co...June, 1921 [negative image].

68. [Juneau-Douglas Bridge from below.]

69. Juneau-Douglas Bridge [looking toward Douglas Island]. Retouched

70. Juneau Douglas Bridge, 1935(?) [view from Douglas Island].

71. Alaska Road Commission. Douglas Bridge...drawn by V. Wilfert, May 17, 1934 [photograph of artist's rendering].

72. Garage Building under construction, P.C. Dock, Juneau, 5-1-24 [1924; looking across harbor; the ALMA and the TEDDY at dock].
73. Lights O Juneau [night view of waterfront toward Alaska-Juneau mill; PRINCE ROBERT at dock].


76. [Auke Lake and Mendenhall Glacier in winter, framed by trees.]

77. Auk Lake and Mendenhall Glacier [bridge in foreground].

78. Auk Lake and Mendenhall Glacier.

79. Mendenhall Glacier [looking down dirt road toward glacier]. (no. 9)

80. Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska [looking down dirt road]. (no. 8)

81. Mendenhall Glacier. (no. 10)

82. Mendenhall Glacier [close view of face; group of people at right].

83. Mendenhall Glacier [face]. (no. 6)

84. Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska [Channel Bus Line vehicle on shore in foreground].

85. [Large group exploring on face of a glacier, probably the Mendenhall.]

86. [Percy Pond at Takuakhl; Norris Glacier in background.]

87. [Two men in skiff in front of a large glacier, possibly at Taku Inlet.]

88. [Photograph of film clippings showing men and two skiffs in front of a glacier.]

89. Taku Glacier [large iceberg in foreground].

90. Taku Glacier [face].

91. Chichagof, Alaska. Golden Gate Mill [(center); looking across still water]. (no. 7)

92. Reflections at Chichagof, Alaska [view across still water to town]. (no. 9)
93. Bear totem, Wrangall [Wrangell], Alaska [close view]. Sheriff (no. 291)
94. Grave totems, Ketchikan, Alaska [two beaver totems]. Sheriff (no. 403)
95. [Sitka, aerial view, ca. 1931.]
96. [Father William Duncan's church at Metlakatla.]
97. [Church at Metlakatla, side view.]
98. [Grave of Father William Duncan.]
99. [Yakutat harbor; navy plan and fuel tender near beach.]
100. Seward, Alaska [bird's-eye view]. Sheriff (no. 520)
101. Seward, Alaska [bird's-eye view]. Sheriff (no. 556)
102. [U.S. Navy ship in Gastineau Channel near Juneau.]
103. [Transporting cattle on deck of CHLOPECK No. 3, at Juneau.]
104. [Steamers BARANOF and NORTHWESTERN docked below the Alaska-Juneau mill at Juneau.]
105. S.S. BARANOF at Juneau, Alaska [similar to 104].
106. [S.S. NORTHWESTERN beached at Eagle River near Juneau, July 1933.]
107. [U.S.S. VICKSBURG, side view.]
108. [Sub-chaser 309 at Taku Glacier.]
109. [The TEDDY at Taku Glacier on May 22, 1910.]
110. [CASSIAR, a small riverboat on the Stikine River.] Blurred view.
111. [Two men shaking hands on deck of the S.S. VICTORIA; man at left wears fur parka and boots.]
112. [Man in fur parka with gun on the deck of the S.S. VICTORIA.]
113. Eskimo [elderly man in parka wearing fur hood; head to waist studio portrait].
114. [Similar to 113.]

115. Eskimo [elderly women in parka wearing fur hood; head to waist studio portrait].

116. [Two Eskimo girls in parkas, wearing fur hoods.]

117. [Two adults and two girls, full length portrait of Eskimos.]

118. [Group posed in costume?]

119. [Man and woman dancing in costume, with tambourine.]

120. [Man and woman in costume holding flaming knives in hands and mouths.]

121. [Afro-American couple and party seated around a dining table. Note: reflection of photographer in mirror.]

122. [Interior view of a sitting room; woman seated on couch at right.]

123. [Large group of men posed at a warehouse under construction.]

124. [Large group of men posed next to building.]

125. [Formal studio portrait of a young couple.] Jeffries, Seattle

126. [Potted Easter lilies in a shop.]

127. [Two automobiles on a downtown street.]

128. [Man sleeping under a buggy.]

129. [Buildings on shoreline below steep mountains.]

130. [Large mining excavation and machinery.]

131. [Five men with surveying tripods in front of "Bar Room" (log building), possibly at Dawson.]

132. Alaska and its relation to Siberia and Japan. Route of Col. Jas. G. Steese, President, Alaska Road Commission, while a member of Secretary Huston's Party. Summer of 1922 [photograph of map].

134. Rounding up Soapy Smith gang at City Hall, Skagway, Alaska [missing - also in PCA 258]
Inventory for Accession 1990-065

Folder 1 of 2


3. Letter to Every-body…from E. A. Adams (signed), The Elite Studio, Juneau, AK, March 14, 1932. [Seven pages, typescript] Subjects: Cartoons, Politics, Opinions


6. Letter to Mrs. Frances E. Moore, Romulus, Michigan, from (unsigned), The Elite Studio, Juneau, AK, Sept. 10, 1932. [One page, typescript]

7. Letter to Mrs. Frances E. Moore, Romulus, Michigan, from E. A. Adams (signed, initials), The Elite Studio, Juneau, AK, March 11, 1933. [Seven pages, typescript] Subjects: Parrot named Polly, Time difference, Politics, Prohibition


Folder 2 of 2 – Photographs and post cards

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“Group of Miners on Last Chance”

“Gold Bottom 16 from Mouth;” [reverse, handwritten, “Slucing the dumps”]

“28 & 30 Above Sulphur” [fading, reverse, “winter on the claims”]

“Lindemann” “lots of time own home’s a tent”

“Bennett City – Spring of 1888; ~ Stampede to the Klondike~ Adams & Co.”

“Cheech[ako] Hill” reverse: “Cheechaco Hill was a hill of gold”

“Three Tons of Gold Bricks; Bank of B. N. A.; Adams & Co. Dawson, Y. T.” reverse: “40 of the bricks weighed sixteen hundred oz each Gold g--- $16... oz”

“Croosing the Lakes” reverse: “this is what we call mushing, not traveling, pulling our own sleigh by hand sometimes by dog power 100 to 500 miles is nothing some times 1000 miles over mountains or anything in snow so you head with sleighs heavily loaded.”

“We catch ‘em by the car load here.”

“They grow Big here. That is not me behind the bear. Weight 14 hundred pounds.

“And Deer by the bushel, They like the domesticate life.”

“Yes the Bears and Dogs play TAG right in our front yards. The bears are almost as common as Chickens here.”

“We hook them BIG here. One of those big fellows lasts for a week or more. And this is a small one. Most of them weight 90 to 100 pounds. I know you will say GEE WHIZ.’

“Juneau-Douglas bridge. The ground that you see this way from the bridge, that is bare, is covered many feet deep with water when the tide is in. We have about a 23 feet tide here. For 6 hours it is running in and 6 hours running out, so it is on the move allthe while. In fact as soon as it is in it starts running out again. Tide and Time waits for no ONE.”

“Baby Seal, Caught at the wreck of the S. S. Islander. They tame verry easy, they will follow you around just like a Dog. They are verry smart, you can teach them many things. They will climb aboard the boat for you to feed them. This is the Hair seal, not the FUR seal, the hair on this kind is verry coarse, and wears well.”

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16 “Striking Miners - Juneau; Elite Studio.” reverse: The strikers. That is where
the rucus started, where the clubs and the fists flew fast and furious. Blood
flowed as freely as water down the mountain side. There were cracked heads and
sore heads. Bald-heads and Pin-heads. So take your choice, we have all kinds.”

17 “Kids Day at the Capitol Theatre”

Studios.” [Buildings identified on face of photo: Cold Storage; Snow White
Laundry.” [reverse: “They had quite a bit of it dug away from in front of the
buildings across the street. It will cost us about 25 thousand dollars by the time
we are all through with it.”

19 “The Kids have just one H… of a time at a place like this, and you are never
crowded at the beaches North of 53 plenty of room. ‘SO COME ON DOWN
SOME TIME’.”

20 “Where the slide started marked X, dots mark path of slide; Elite Studios”
[reverse: “Well you can see that we had a close call. Where you see the X in blue
ink is where the Studio is. When we heard the terrible roar, WELL we thought
that we were gone while it only lasted about 3 or 4 seconds it seemed a long while
to everybody, and yet it was over almost before you could think….some people
that was standing across the street but right in the path of it did not have time to
get out of the way, and where it started from was about 12 hundred feet up the
mountain side, and about 150 feet wide. It took about 20 people in all. You can
see that it swiped out quite a small forest that was in its way.”

21 “Juneau, Alaska: Yes here they are. The twelve army flyers that came to Alaska
this summer to look us over. They came, they saw, and they went. They left some
money here. Well we had lots of just what they wanted in the way of Curios
and Photos.”

22 “Clearing away the landslide……Elite Studios.” [Cold storage building identified
on face of photo; reverse” “It came clear across the street before it stopped. The
force of air before it broke all the windows for some distance both sides of it.
WELL WE CAN SAY “IT NEVER TOUCHED ME”

23 “Juneau, Alaska; Here is our big clipper ship, just rearing to go. Ten passenger.
Yes, we are coming to the front. The first of May we will have our own
broadcasting here YAH? YAH. That will be fine for us for we will get reception
all day long. It is being installed at present. Pretty soon we will have our Antenas
attached to the northpole or some other darned thing, maybe the north star. You

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just can’t tell what we will do, perhaps MILDEW. We get real devilish at times and rear up and brindle like a bay colt.”

“Miles and miles of the most beautiful sandy beaches to go bathing or lounge around on the hot sand and spend the day.”

“Just a few sea gulls combing the beach for what have YOU.”

“Yes-sir, we catch them big out here in this nick of the woods. This is A Halibut, man standing beside shows how big the fish is. They are all caught with a line. And when you get one of those old boys on the line, well you know that there is something doing. Just one of those rascals would raise the old huron a few inches. He would look like a whale in the old brook. They are snow white on one side and a dark mud color on the other. Both eyes are on the top side, they look as though they were badly twisted.”

“50 lb. salmon - Juneau, Alaska.” reverse: “Even the fish grow big here. When you get one of these fellows on your hook, well it takes about one hour to get him landed, but look at the fun you have doing it.”

“Mendenhall Glacier. Elite Studio, ’56.”

“Mendenhall Glacier. Elite Studio, ‘15” reverse: “2 miles across face. 40 miles long; ice about 800 feet thick.”

Portraits, man and woman [unidentified]: Captions: “Well, here we are. Pay your money and take your CHOICE. Here is what is left of what might have been Our weights are respect 195, and 185, of course I have 10 lbs the best of it, that gives me more prestige, and puts me up among the Nobels.” Caption: “Polly can Laugh, Whistle, Sing, Talk and Dance, but she can’t write, so she just sends her compliments (a feather), and here it is.”

“A fox farm on one of the many islands here in Alaska.”

“Yes, the subs were here as well. They were good spenders, and a fine lot of men, there was not a drunk among them. The most …were married men with families.”

“Sitka Alaska Totem….Elite Studio”

“Totems at Kate Alaska…Elite..167” [reverse: “The Shark Clan not the sharks on top of pole.”]

“We catch them BIG away out here. This fellow weighed something over 200. It is a Halibut; they are a fine fish. [But] at that I like the little old Rock Bass best.”
36 “The Bighorn of the Arctic. Elite Studio 89”

37 “Hunting Big Game in Alaska. Elite Studio…” [Man with rifle, 4 deer carcasses.]

38 “Here is looking at you. He is doing the best he can to look pleasant. But if you don't like it just turn over the page.”

39 “Where if they don’t come up to see us, well we just go down and call on them, and what you see is PLENTY.”

40 “Hot meals at all hours in Alaska. Elite Studios”

41 “In the mountains on a misty day. Where you are liable to meet the Big fellow face to face, and you will wish you hadn’t. And right there it is either you or him. LETS PRAY.”

42 “Love in the Far North is just the same; they hold them tight.”

43 “High up in the Mountains where you are monarch of all you survey. Where Nature beckons you on and on, and you freel like you would like to stay there just all your life, and never come back.”

44 “this is in my gymnasium suit. Physical development of the body is the same as a-.-- . So the brain health stands first and best of all; don't neglect the body.”

45 Christmas Card: “Good old Nature on A large SCALE! Where the snow capped mountains beckon you on and on. The Adamses.”

46 “Sinking a shaft”

47 Photo Christmas Card; “Mendenhall Glacier. Elite Studio” reverse: “Best of Love, from the Adamses to Frances Moore”

48 Christmas Card (drawing). reverse: “This is the way I look now. So you can see what Alaska has done to me. The Adamses.”

49 “Points of Interest and Our Large Commercial Industries and Resources of the Northland” [Reverse: “These are some cartoons I made, a takeoff on this country. Our Delightful moonlight nights. The Malamute dogs get out on a snowbank and HOWL like the devil.

[Explanation of cartoons on reverse:] Our beautiful song birds, well there isn’t such a thing here, just sea gulls and ravens.
Our beautiful Indian Summers. We do not have any Indian Summers, but plenty of Mosquetos and how.

Our promising farm and grazing lands, that would be hard to find near Juneau.

Our large Commercial Industries, well there is plenty of that done here.

Sluicing also Washing on a bar. There is more of that kind of mining done here than any other.

Sluicing is where they wash the gold up in the sluice boxes. Panning on a bar is when they pan the gravel for the gold along the rivers, wherever there are gold bearing gravel along the shores. So you would know what was meant by washing on a bar.

I made those cartoons on a large piece of drawing paper then photographed it down to 8 x 10. It has caused quite a laugh here for it is all so darned true.

Many a bottle has been slid out from behind the door to the old Clutch, as the native women is called here, while the bucks watch her from behind a tree or from over the fence.