

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Henson Family, Collectors

Henson Family Photograph Collection, 1898-1915

PCA 310

32 views
(.5 inches)

Processed: 1993
By: India Spartz

ACQUISITION: Jeanne H. Metzger of Marysville, Washington (great granddaughter to John and Sarah Henson) donated the collection June 23, 1989. The collection is from the Henson family of Douglas, Alaska. Acc. No. 1989-21.

ACCESS: The photographs are available for viewing. Because of its fragile condition, the photographs may not be photocopied. White cotton gloves should be worn when viewing.

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

PROCESSING: The photos have been numbered and sleeved in Mylar. A finding aid is available. Many of the photographs are mounted, however they are fragile.

Biographical Note

John Henson and one son, Fred, came north to the gold rush in 1898 from Port Angeles, WA. John became a U.S. Commissioner. In 1902, Mrs. Sarah Pace Henson came north to Douglas, Alaska with Jack, their second son, and daughter Alice. Mr. and Mrs. John Henson were Douglas residents from 1889 to 1921. They were also among the pioneers who settled Port Angeles, Washington.

Jack went to work for the *Douglas Island News* and Alice Henson became a teacher. Jack became a journeyman printer and served as postmaster in Douglas from 1914-1919. He was a volunteer fireman and also worked in the mines until he was injured in a 1911 mining accident. After he recovered, he returned to the newspaper business, filling a position that opened when an irate subscriber shot and killed a reporter at *Alaska Daily Empire*. During his 15 years as a newspaperman in Alaska, Jack Henson covered the Alaska Territorial Legislature, the sinking of the Princess Sophia, an earth slide in Juneau, labor strikes (IWW), mine disasters and the rum-running fleets of Prohibition. He returned to Port Angeles, WA, in 1921. He was married to Mary Gravlack [?] and had one daughter Marie.

Jack Henson, known as the "Wandering Scribe" in Port Angeles, died at age 80 in May, 1964 (probably May 4); Mary died in 1960.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes residents, activities and a few scenic views of Treadwell and Douglas, Alaska, Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co., Alaska Mexican Gold Mining Co. Some are from commercial photographers including Edward Andrews and Case & Draper. The Henson home, Treadwell dining hall, stamp mills, bunkhouse and store are also included.

Inventory

1. [Treadwell, Alaska. Dining hall, probably 4th of July.]
2. [Treadwell beach scene: flume and seagulls with mining operations in background.]
3. The "30" Stamp Mills and "office" at the Treadwell Property, Silver Bow Basin, Alaska. August 1905. Alice King, Sophie Williams, Earnest John Powell, Johnny Morrisy, E.V.F. (Estelle Violet Fletcher). Taken by John King. [Three women and two men gathered near a doorstep.]
4. Alaska Mexican Gold Mining Co., 1896. [View of the Alaska Mexican mill of the Treadwell property group.]
5. Treadwell Bunkhouse. [View of the bunkhouse facility.]

6. Juneau and Gastineau Channel. [Bird's Eye view of Juneau looking toward Douglas, Alaska.]
7. Treadwell Club decorated for Valentine Dance, Given by the assay & Survey Department, Treadwell Alaska. 1911. [Interior view of dance hall with valentines hanging from the ceiling.]
8. Treadwell Alaska. July 4, 1905. W.H. Case 102.T. [Crowd gathered to watch the fire hose races.]
9. Douglas, Alaska. 1915. E. Andrews, photo. [Bird's-eye view of Douglas, Alaska looking toward Juneau.]
10. Treadwell Alaska, 1915. E. Andrews, photo. [View of the Treadwell mining property from a across the channel at Thane, Alaska.]
11. Treadwell Mine. Open Pits Looking West. Case & Draper 33. [View of mining pits behind the Treadwell properties.]
12. Treadwell Store. Case & Draper 56. [Interior view of a General Store with three men behind the counter; dry goods in foreground.]
13. PHILLIP J. KELLY (ship) tender for Chatham Cannery. Juneau, Alaska. [View of a vessel docked at the Union Wharf Co. building at Juneau?]
14. [Unidentified steamship; side view.]
15. Mayflower Island. Douglas. Dance Pavilion est. 1910. [View of Mayflower Island with a dock structure in the foreground.]
16. B.M. Behrends Bank 1914. [View of the bank which is located on Seward Street in Juneau, Alaska.]
17. "Dear Estelle: This is a picture of Watanabe and Stando as you can see. They look very dignified don't they? see if Harry recognizes them. Fred." [Postcard of two Asian men posed in front of a garden and wooden building.]
18. Henson's house-Mrs. Henson and yours truly on the porch. Douglas, Alaska. [Two women standing on the porch of house.]
19. Douglas, Alaska. [Street scene; woman with children standing next to a house.]
20. Back view of the school house and side view of Henson's house. The cross indicates Henson's house. Mrs. Henson and "Bonie", the dog on the porch. The small cross indicates the building in which Jack works. Douglas, Alaska. [View of school house and town of Douglas in background.]
21. Douglas school house. [Public school in Douglas, Alaska.]

22. Douglas School House [Same as PCA 310-20.]
23. Treadwell, Alaska. A.W. [View of tree stumps and mining pit looking toward the Treadwell mining operation and Juneau.]
24. Douglas sawmill. [Men standing around a sawmill with logs and debris.]
25. Treadwell. [Bird's eye view of the Treadwell operation along the waterfront.]
26. Treadwell Mine & Douglas City. [Water view of the Treadwell operation from a distance.]
27. [Unidentified location; dwellings in a wooded setting.]
28. [Unidentified mining operation?]
29. [Unidentified mining operation?]
30. [Small steam locomotive with two children watching; non-Alaska?]
31. [Unidentified location of a slanted building.]
32. [Unidentified camp scene; a small girl stands on the right.]

*g:hist/PCAs/PCA310
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