

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Tower, Ark A., Photographer
Mina Lang, Collector

Mina Lang Photograph Collection, 1930s

PCA 335

99 photographs, b&w
(1.0 inch)

Processed: 1992
By: Agnes Sincic
Rev. 2/2005

ACQUISITION: Mitzi Garrish Saunders of Australia, donated the collection in 1992, which included a photograph album, loose photographs and a book, *Souvenir of North Western Alaska*, by O.D. Goetz (Acc. No. 1992-008).

ACCESS: The photos are fragile. They may be viewed, however, they may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The book was added to the Alaskana collection (F905.S6). Twenty-four photographs by Basil Clemons were added to the Clemons collection, PCA 68. The photograph album was unbound; photos are numbered and sleeved in Mylar. No inventory is available.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mina Dobbert was born in Rostock, Germany and came to the U.S. as a governess for a diplomatic family. She was living in San Francisco in 1898, when the gold rush began. She and a friend, Lucille Knight, and Mrs. Knight's two sons carried 1100 pounds of provisions over the Chilkoot Pass to Lake Lindeman where they built their own boats and traveled to Dawson. There she met Mr. Lang and two years later they were married in Nome. According to one newspaper report, it was the first marriage performed for a white couple in Alaska.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang stayed in Nome until 1903 then moved to Fairbanks for six years before moving on to Iditarod in 1909. In 1915 they moved to Anchorage and stayed until 1918 when they left Alaska.

Mina Lang was a member of the Alaskan Sourdoughs and also the Ladies of the Golden North (Seattle), the oldest pioneer woman's organization of Alaska. She died in Twin Falls, Idaho, in the 1960s according to the donor.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection includes mostly stock images of Fairbanks, Nome, Anchorage and Juneau; also Eskimos, sled dogs, and a few images of unidentified people. Many of the photographs were collected from commercial photographers, including Winter and Pond Co., Walter Hylan (Fairbanks), Sawyer, B.B. Dobbs, Charles Cann, Julius Fritschen (Anchorage). Others may have been photographed by Mina Lang.

No inventory available