

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Ethel M. (Clayton) Montgomery Photograph Collection, 1934-1989

PCA 348

2 boxes (1 cubic foot)

Processed: October 1994
By: Ellen FitzGerald and Gladi Kulp
Revised: Amelia Jenkins, March 2007
Revised: Anastasia Tarmann, July 2008

Acquisition: Ethel Montgomery's collection of Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. (ANAC) business records and personal memorabilia was donated to the Library by daughter, Jean C. Berg in 1989-1990 (Acc. 898-5, 89-33, 90-2). This includes Manuscript 136, the Ethel Montgomery Papers. Additional materials donated by Jean C. Berg (Accession # 2008-19).

Access: The collection is unrestricted. However, the photographs may not be photocopied.

Copyright: Request for permission to publish material from the collection should be discussed with the librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

Processing: The collection was received unorganized. Whenever possible the original order was maintained. The collection is described at item level, with names of those photographed listed in Scope and Contents note as well. The photographs are grouped by format and type of artwork. The photos in the second box arrived in bundles with rubber bands around them, with three loose photos following. Photos were also in stationary envelopes. They were placed in plastic album sheets and added to the collection. Newspaper clippings were photocopied and loose papers with type or photos glued to the surface were placed in plastic sleeves. Inventories available below. A collection of papers and some accompanying photos housed separately in MS 136. See also MS136-3-23 Artists business records, and ANAC name s & citations clippings.

Subjects

Montgomery, Ethel

Naming Ceremony

Potlatch

Peace Rock/ Deer Rock

Alaska Natives – Tlingit

Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., Tlingit Indians art, Alaskan Eskimos art, Alaskan natives industries, tuberculosis in Alaska.

Archival Arrangement

Five Series of Montgomery, Ethel, Collector, Photographs, 1934-1989:

1. ANAC Collection Photographs
2. Montgomery, Ethel M. Scenery and Personal
3. Peace rock Ceremony, Naming Ceremony, Potlatch
4. Early pictures of cache
5. Personal photos and papers on Native Arts and Artists

Biographical Note

Ethel M. (Clayton) Montgomery, collector and promoter of Native arts and crafts, docent, and well-known Juneau hostess, was born on March 12, 1896 in northeastern Nebraska, Montgomery graduated from Wayne State Normal. She taught elementary school in Nebraska and married Ivil J. Montgomery in 1917. The Montgomerys had three children -- Jean, Chloe, and Neil C. After they arrived in Juneau, Alaska in 1949, Ethel Montgomery actively promoted the sale of products, handmade by Native artisans, through the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearinghouse, later renamed the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., known from its inception as ANAC. Montgomery was advisor and volunteer at the ANAC Cache, an outlet for Native arts and crafts in Juneau. She was a well-known docent at the Alaska State Museum and led local tours for local groups such as the Juneau Chamber of Congress. Montgomery remained active until her death on January 31, 1989, in Juneau.

Scope and Contents Note

Box 1: The photograph collection, ca. 1934-1989, contains black-and-white and color photographs, slides, illustrations, and graphics from ANAC and Montgomery's personal papers. Subjects include Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., Tlingit Indians art, Alaskan Eskimos art, Alaskan natives industries, tuberculosis in Alaska.

Box 2: Before her death Ethel Montgomery documented her adoption by Chilkat weaver, Jennie Thlunaut (pronounced Kla-naut) and her naming ceremony and potlatch with a five page narrative and 30 color photographs taken at the event. Other photos: Color photos of "[Ceremony] hosted by Austin Hammond" at Peace Rock, also called "Deer Rock" or "Guwakaan Teyee" August 17, 1983; Color photos of Jennie Thlunaut at Haines Museum; Black and White photos of the ANAC cache; Black and white photos at King Island.

Box 2, Cont'd: Named on verso of photos: Jennie Thlunaut, Klukwan Haines: Dolly (Abbott) Phillips (married to Fred Phillips, daughter of Tlingit elder Lilly Nigh), Juneau; Ida Kadashan, Hoonah; George Dalton; Charlie Jimmy; Daisy Phillips; Emma Marks; Horace Marks; Bear

blanket, Eagle blanket; Killer whale button blanket; Agnes Bellinger; Supreme Court Judge Robert Boochives.

Note: A KTOO recording of the Peace Rock ceremony event may exist according to notes in the collection.

ETHEL M. (CLAYTON) MONTGOMERY Biography

- 1896 Born in northeastern Nebraska as Ethel M. Clayton, March 12
- 1916-1917? Graduate of Wayne State Normal, taught elementary school
Volunteer work of various kinds, including Red Cross hospital, in Nebraska and Massachusetts
- 1917 Married Ivil James Montgomery in Nebraska. Children: Jean, Chloe and Neil
- 1917-1948? Husband, Ph.D., University of Nebraska, 1941
Husband, Superintendent of Schools, Wilber/Blair, Nebraska Husband, Director of Merit System of Nebraska
- 1949-196? Arrived in Juneau, Alaska, with husband, from Lincoln, Nebraska, July
Husband, first Director of Merit System for the Territory of Alaska, until statehood.
Husband, Director of Certification for the Alaska Department of Education until retirement
- 1949-1950's Volunteer in the Government Hospital; visits patients' relatives in cities and villages
- 1968 Husband died, May 9 in Juneau
- 1949?-1961 Volunteer and advisor for Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative
- 1961-1975? Manager of ANAC Cache
- 1949-1989 Tour guide at the Alaska State Museum, beginning when Edward Keithahn was director
(top floor of the Old Federal Building now State Capitol Building)
Co-organizer of the Shank, Ship and Shutter Club
Active with husband in Juneau Methodist Church, later Northern Light Church
Active in Salvation Army (board member)
Member for 50 years of PEO and Eastern Star
Member of Daughters of the American Revolution
Member of Igloo #6 Alaska Pioneers
Member of American Legion Auxiliary
- 1971 Woman of the Year, Juneau Rotary Club
- 1984 Adopted by Jennie Thlunaut into the Kaagwaan Taan Wolf Clan of the Eagle Tribe
(Tlingit) in Haines; given Tlingit name Naats KJaa
- 1984 Awarded Citizen's Choice Beautification by Juneau, for her home, "Keen Ku Hit," and its grounds, covered by native plants
- 1984?-1989 Elected chaplain of the Yin Waashaa, Kaagwaan Taan Women's Society

- 1985 Received Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor Bill Sheffield
- 1986 Celebration of 90th birthday, by Friends of the Museum, Alaska State Museum, Monday, March 3
Celebration of 90th birthday by her family, hosted by her daughter, Jean Berg, in Seattle, March 9
- 1988 State Legislature recognized her long-term community service
- 1989 Died, January 31 in Juneau

**Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc.
Organizational History**

- 1937-1938 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), a federal agency, set up the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House (ANAC) in Juneau
Arts and Crafts Division set up by Alaska Native Service (ANS), a branch of the BIA.
BIA superintendent Claude M. Hirst appointed Virgil Farrell, a Nome BIA teacher, as the first supervisor of the native arts and crafts clearing house.
- 1939 Government trademark issued for Alaskan native products to guarantee authenticity
- 1940 BIA appointed Virgil Farrell superintendent of the ANS BIA appointed Harvey Starling, Kotzebue BIA teacher. Supervisor of Arts and Crafts
- 1944 BIA assigned Harvey Starling to the newly-established position of Arts and Crafts Manager
Don C. Foster, ANS superintendent, at the recommendation of Harvey Starling, appointed Don Burrus as an assistant and general manager of ANAC and added some of Harvey Starling's previous duties to his own
- 1945 Harvey Starling was transferred Supervisor of Arts to the Education Division as Supervisor of Education for the ANS
- 1947 Responsibility for ANAC was redesignated from the Education Division of ANS to the Native Resources Division
- 1949 Adopted ANAC trademark
- 1950 Eliminated 2% service charge on merchandise and implemented conventional retail mark-up policy
- 1952 ANAC became self-supporting
- 1956 April 23, the ANAC severed its ties to government and became a private, cooperatively-owned, self-supporting, nonprofit corporation under the Laws of the Territory of Alaska; the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House (ANAC) became Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., (still known as ANAC)

- 1958 Direct mail, common during the early years, was publicized and increased to combat the influx of fraudulent misrepresentations and imitations appearing in retail outlets
- 1961 ANAC Cache, retail shop in Juneau, opened under the management of Ethel Montgomery ANAC received loan from BIA; discontinued consignment policy and began to purchase directly from members
- 1968 Alaska State Legislature introduced Bill No. 535 to create the Alaska Native Crafts Corporation to promote and market Alaska native crafts
- 1972-1973 Moved general operations to Anchorage; ANAC Cache continued to operate in Juneau
- 1974 Constructed warehouse which served as office headquarters and wholesale outlet, and opened retail gallery in downtown Anchorage
- 1975 ANAC Cache in Juneau and Anchorage warehouse were sold; wholesale and retail operations were consolidated in a single gallery space in downtown Anchorage
- 1984 Corporate structure changed from Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., to ANAC Association, Inc.

(Time line was constructed from Ethel Montgomery's notes, the recollections of Don Burrus, former manager of ANAC, and *Guide to the Historical Records of the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House* by Christina F. Kreps.)

Inventory

Box 1 ANAC Collection Photographs Scenery and Personal

- 1 - 162 Postcards
- 163 - 211 Slides
- 212 - 288 People [some photos not listed here have information on reverse of photo]
- 212 Eskimo carver - - Using a hand-fashioned drill "powered" by bow and leather tong device, and Alaska Eskimo carves figures of rare elegance from chinks of bare ivory. Verso: Ivory carver at Little Diomede.
- 213 Carol Duncan (Mrs. Jim / in Legislature) - nee Asevedo) at ANAC "Cache" 11/1/75 for feature photo cover on Fish and Game (State) publication. Nov. - Dec. issue. A woman in a button blanket looks at masks.
- 214 [Alvin Koyouktuk]
- 215 [Alvin Koyouktuk] A man sits next to a loom and displays weaving on a table.
- 216 Little Diomede Eskimo Alvin Koyouktuk, Juneau
- 217 No info

- 218 [Alvin Koyouktuk with two masks]
- 219 Jenny Thlunault, Chilkat, weaver
- 220 Howard Rock's father, [Wales, Alaska; Razorback Mountain in background]
- 221 ANAC Bd of Directors taken 1962 Juneau. Alex Akeya, Savoonga; Paul Albert, Tununak; Herbert Apassingok, Gambell; Margaret Cropley, Juneau; David Frankson, Point Hope; James Hawley, Jr., Kivalina; Lawrence Kayoukluk, Shaktoclik; Frank Oxereok Sr., Wales; Nile Smith, Hooper Bay.
- 222 Back row (l. to r.): Don Burrus; unknown; unknown; Gov. Wm. Egan, Paul Albert, Tununak; Rep. Bob Blodgett, Teller; unknown. Front row (l. to r.): unknown; Lawrence Kayoukluk, Shaktoclik; David Frankson, Point Hope; unknown; unknown; Paul Albert, Tununak.
- 225 Andrew Ningealook, President of the Ki-Kat-Ta-Muet Cooperative at Shismaref, an Eskimo community located on the Seward Peninsula, shows how he carves ivory at the 3rd annual Cooperative Crafts Exhibit – an October Co-op Month event held this year in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Seated across the table from him is Captain John H. Bruce, Coast Guard, and President of the Alaska State Society in Washington D. C. Crafts cooperatives and guilds from 32 States had handcrafted items and demonstrating craftsmen at the exhibit. Some 40 farmer and rural electric cooperatives helped sponsor it.
- 226 Verso: Wainwright to Wrangell-Spring only Jannie Negoranna
- 233 Verso: Monty
- 234 Verso: Monty
- 241 Amos Wallace, Juneau, Thlingit Indian carver – in Philadelphia where he carved this totem for a Children's Museum – under auspices of ANAC Inc. of Juneau.
- 243 John Feusi, Dealer in Indian Curios. Douglas, Alaska.
- 287-8 Driftwood Ceremonial masks by Eskimo from Mekoryuk on Nunival Island. L. to r. Ethel M Montgomery, Lee Sandor, Marie Wingerson ~1958, Juneau
- 289 - 291 Artifacts
- 292 - 344 Masks
- 345 - 360 Dolls
- 361 - 364 Skins
- 363 - 364 Lorna Dee MacKinnon and Carmel Beverage pose in the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts store in Juneau; full-length photographs of store clerks modeling fringed, leather jackets and holding Eskimo yo-yos.
- 365 - 381 Moccasins

- 382 - 411 Utensils
- 412 - 648 Carvings
- 649 - 666 Plates
- 667 - 700 Miscellaneous
- 701 - 856 Scenery and Personal
777 Doris Clift & Ethel. Salmonberries
- 816 Verso: "Cap" Ohmer 1950-1987 "Part" owner of Famous Petersburg Alaska Cannery Shrimp Capital of Alaska and the world.
- 817 William Nigh and Lilly Abbot-Nogh Haines, Alaska Sept 13, 1974.
- 826 Lucy Mayas.
- 833 Taku Harbor July 1977 "Taku" Tiger Olson [Olsen] and Ethel McMontgomery (Mrs. I. J. [Ivil James]) "Tiger" 93 yrs is a famous man in Alaska - a long time friend of Ivil's and mine - Kept charge of a huge cannery/buildings and home of Father Hubbard.
- 838 Carol Aceveda/Duncan Ctr Carol's Great grandfather at 100th birthday.
- 839 David & Ida Kadashan Hoonah, AK.

Box 2**Folder 1 Published brochures and memorabilia**

- 1 Mendenhall Glacier Brochure (GPO publication 985-462)
- 2 Four-Story [Totem] Pole Stories Juneau Rotary club brochure referring to the totem pole that is currently near the entrance of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum.
- 3 Coin commemorating St. Michael's cathedral in Sitka (1794-1969)

Folder 2**Series - Mother's Potlatch & Related Pictures & papers**

Sub-series Peace Rock ceremony
30 photos

Sub-series Naming Day Potlatch of Ethel Montgomery

37 photos

- 1 Color photographs of Ethel in her 3411 Douglas Highway home: Wearing blanket; 1986 Seated with Jennie Thlunaut, Agnes Thlunaut
- 2 May 1984 In Haines at Jenny Thlunaut 94th birthday – honored by state legislature, governor, and her own tribe, clan, families”
- 3 August 18, 1984 [Year varies from 1984 to 1983 according to verso of pictures] Haines, “at potlatch given by Jennie Thlunaut-Agnes Bellinger, her daughter, -for naming day for Ethel Montgomery and her adoption into Thlingit Indian tribe Eagle clan. Mrs. Martha Willard, Raven clan (by custom) places button blanket on Ethel, but Jennie(hand on blanket) made the blanket for Ethel Montgomery. That honor for Caucasians had not taken place for 70-75 years! Jennie is eldest woman in Haines and Klukwan. Only other oldest is Annie Hotch 78.”
- 4 Juneau, ANAC Emma Marks, Ethel Montgomery Montgomery, Jennie Thlunaut at birthday party given for Ethel Montgomery
- 5 March 1986 Agnes Bellinger, Yaah-ne shaa tee and Ethel Montgomery
- 6 August 18, 1983 Naming Potlatch for Ethel Montgomery. The sailor or captain’s garb worn by the women is described as the uniform of Yin Waa Shaa, the sisterhood organization of the women in the photos.
- 7 August 18, 1983 Daisy Phillips, Jennie Thlunaut, Dixie Johnson, Montgomery
- 8 ANAC Emma Marks, Ethel Montgomery, Jennie Thlunaut
- 9 Jennie is 94 years-matriarch-elder, Ruth Peterson with eagle drum; Agnes Bellinger wears wolf chilkat blanket very old. Three very old 300-400 year ceremonial hats.
- 10 Ida Kadishan of Hoonah, et al. Began 1pm. Ended about midnight-with 440 people in attendance
- 11 Chief Charlie Jimmie, et al.

Folder 3 Personal papers and photos: biographical, Tlingit culture arts and artists

- 1 Biographical Potlatch Narrative: A narrative account of Ethel Montgomery’s trip to Haines, her naming ceremony and potlatch.
- 2 Animal Characteristics Found in Northwest Coast Art: Identifies and distinguishes characteristics of Eagle and Hawk, Bear and Wolf, etc. (Based on work by Erna Gunther). Verso: Chart of Moiety System-1/2 Raven ½ Eagle.
- 3 Newspaper Clippings: Alaskan Pair Helps Create Disneyland (Alfred and Elma Milotte from Ketchikan). The World Discovers Alaska art and ANAC (Southeastern Log, September 1973). A Rare Chinese Chest From the Late 18th Or Early 19th Century...Friends of the Museum...(Empire 9/2/71).

- 4 List of items donated to a museum.
- 5 March-April 1974 Alaska Fish & Game article on Native Arts, by Amos Burg
- 6 Biographical sketch of Peter Gordon Gould of Unga
- 7 History of Chess Set Carved by Leo Kunnuk Biography of Kunnuk and Agnes Olanna of King Island, Alaska by Dove M. Kull, 1979
- 8 Photo Negative of Leo and Agnes [Photo attributed to?] Dove
- 9 Photo: King Island Houses
- 10 Photo: Agnes and Leo Kunnuk of King Island as Wolf Dancers
- 11 Obituary of Timothy Kunnuk, Anchorage Times, March 31, 1979

Folder 4 Photographs: "Early Pictures of Cache" and related materials

- 1 Black and White photo of Ethel Montgomery with artwork, masks, baskets. Verso: "June 1976 wearing a Thlingit Indian 'Kugiaddi' (frog) Indian dance neck-breast piece made about 1900-has trade beads, porcupine quills on part of an Hudson's Bay blanket. Taken in Anac 'Cache' Juneau, Alaska"
- 2 Black and white photo of carvings, slippers, baskets, small totems, Chilkat blanket
- 3 Black and white photo of Ethel Montgomery ? behind glass case with masks, baskets in background.
- 4 Black and white photo of masks, chilkat blanket, baskets, small totem. Verso: "1950-60-70 ANAC. Wholesale Clearing House Seward St., Juneau"
- 5 Black and white photo of three dolls. Verso: "Wood face dolls from Eek, Alaska by Lucy hawk-Elana McIntyre Eskimo"
- 6 Color photo of shop with Ethel Montgomery and two women and a man, unidentified.
- 7 Black and white photo of Ethel Montgomery with Eskimo mask?
- 8 Color photo of basket.
- 9 Color postcard photo of carver: "Little Diomedes Eskimo, ivory carver with mouth drill. Color photo by Joachim Ries"
- 10 Color Alaska State Museum postcard: Wax, Facets and Felt: Beadwork by Emma marks March 18-April 24 Reception Friday, March 25, 1988" Photo: "Emma Marks" (on verso) with beaded cloaks.