

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Taylor, Hilda Harbin, 1912-

Hilda Harbin Taylor Photograph Collection, ca. 1932-1937

PCA 386

1 album (47 photographs)
29 photographs

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ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Hilda's daughter, Alma Greenwood, in 1996. Papers form a separate collection, MS 168 (Accession no. 1996-31).

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: Some photographs are numbered. Album pages are interleaved with tissue. Other photographs are housed in Mylar.

Biographical Note

Hilda Irene Harbin was born in Columbia Falls (Flathead County), Montana on June 24, 1912. She married Clarence Curtis Taylor on January 24, 1931 in Kalispell, Montana. Hilda Taylor's first time away from the Flathead area was in 1935 when she and her husband and their baby went to Bendel Island (in the Shumagin Islands, part of the Aleutian Range) near Sand Point, Alaska to raise blue fox. Daughter Alma Irene ("Amy") was born on Bendel Island in November 1935, a few months after their arrival there. The Taylors spent most of three years, 1935-1937, on Bendel Island or Mist Harbor, and finally gave up because the venture was not profitable.

Hilda and Clarence returned home and spent the rest of their married life on small farms or rural areas in Montana and Idaho. James Curtis was born December 29, 1942 in Kalispell and Patti Jo on April 26, 1956 in Sandpoint, Idaho. Clarence died in the mid-1960's. Hilda moved to Washington and began college at St. Martin's. She graduated summa cum laude in 1969, the same year as her daughter Alma.

Hilda was employed as a school librarian at the Tumwater Junior High School (Wash.) while continuing to attend school; she earned her Master of Librarianship from the University of Washington in 1972. She retired from the school district and moved to Anderson Island (Washington) in 1978. She spent six months in the Peace Corps in Jamaica. Since then she has mostly lived on Anderson Island except for a few years in Seattle. She moved to Elma, WA in 1994.

Scope and Contents Notes

The Hilda Harbin Taylor photograph collection (76 photographs) depict life during her time on Bendel and Nagai Islands (Shumagin Islands), mainly on a fox farm in the mid-1930's. A postcard collection follows various Alaska trips including an Inside Passage journey, ca. 1932. Papers form a separate collection, MS 168.

Inventory

[A.G. refers to information from Alma Greenwood, donor]

Album 1: (photos 1-47)

- 1 Clarence, Alaska Bound [A.G., Clarence Curtis Taylor(1906-1965). Taken Jul 1935.]
- 2-3 Juneau, Capitol [Capital] of Alaska
- 4 Gold Mines at Juneau
- 5 Columbia Glacier
- 6-9 Columbia Glacier

- 10 China Town in Ketchikan
- 11 Ketchikan, Alaska.
- 12 A Freighter
- 13 U.S.S. Northampton
- 14-15 [A. G.] Cannery @ Mist Harbor
- 16 Loading the boat at Ketchikan
- 17 Naval Launch at Ketchikan
- 18 [A glacier]
- 19 [Ketchikan]
- 20 [House]
- 21 Apartment House at Juneau
- 22 Mrs. Groswalt and Jim
- 23 [A.G] Mrs. Groswalt (mother of Ralph who owned "Blue Fox" Boat) and Hilda Taylor, Sand Point, AK, 1935
- 24 Clarence and some of the big ones. Clarence C. Taylor, 1936, Bendel Island, Alaska; on left, 35 cod; on right, 35 halibut; 18 cod on table; 23 sculpin on ground in front of table.
- 25 [A.G.] blue fox
- 26 A View on Bendel and the Cabin [A.G.] Looking South from cabin on Bendel Island, 60-100 acres of tillable land in this valley.
- 27 [A.G]. Cabin on Bendel Island, boathouse about half way out the point. Taken 16 Oct. 1935
- 28 Some Blue Fox on the Beach.
- 29 [A.G.] Home beach on Bendel Island, baby blue fox in foreground. Other islands in background. 12 Aug 1935
- 30 Part of Bendel Island
- 31 [A.G]. Mist Harbor Cannery
- 32 [A.G]. Hilda Taylor and A.E. Reeve

- 33 [A.G]. Clarence Taylor and A. E. Reeve
- 34 A.G]. Hilda Taylor
- 35 [A.G]. Bendel Island, a barabara feeding station for fox
- 36-37 [A.G]. Octopus at Mist Harbor
- 38 [A.G]. Clarence Taylor with Alma Taylor. Bendel Island, 1936
- 39-40 [A.G]. Fishing crew?? from Mist Harbor
- 41-42 [A.G.] Photos from A. E. Reeve [Bear skins]
- 43 "At Anchor" Unga Alaska
- 44 [Woman standing]
- 45 A.E.R., Guide
- 46 [Postcard with photos and text]
- 47 [Postcard] But? It's a Ketchikan Halibut (5628)

Folder 2: (photos 48-76)

- 48 The mines at Juneau Alaska.
- 49 [A.G]. Columbia Glacier, Jul 1935
- 50 [Freighter]
- 51 Battleship U.S.S. Northampton in Alaska.
- 52 S.S. Alaska, Seward, Alaska.
- 53 [Mrs. Groswalt]
- 54 "Home Black" on Bendel, Island. A "Blue Fox" in foreground, other islands in background
- 55 [A.G]. Bendel Island, AK. Wildflowers in the foreground.
- 56 [A.G]. Dory with sail, Harold and Clarence Taylor
- 57 [A.G.] Boat coming into dock at Mist Harbor

- 58 Small fur seal harem on Priblof [Pribilof]
- 59 "Sister" Tom and Dora Skulstad's 8 yr. old daughter. Simeonof [Island]
- 60 The Reeves and cabin [A.G.], A.E. Reeve
- 61 Reeves, and see the turnips
- 63 Ketchikan Alaska. "The First City".
- 64 Wrangell, Alaska (5604)
- 65 Alaskan Sunrise, Ketchikan. This is part of the Inside passage.
- 66 Track of the Steamers, near Ketchikan, Alaska (Otto S.) Nice Scenery here.
- 67 U.S.S. Mail Steamer Starr- Seward Alaska. Alaska Shop
- 68 The town of Unga, Alaska, A fishing village.
- 69 School children. Mrs. Reeve in white in doorway. [A.G.]. Mrs. A.E. Reeve, Unga?
[Unga School and children; school teacher (Mrs. Reeves) was Lena Yarnell] From Carol Smith
- 70 Fur Buying Trip
- 71 [Furs, note on back by Henry J. Mesta]
- 72 "Murphy" Seward Alaska.
- 73 Rangers sled dogs, McKinley Park, Alaska. (Becker Photo)
- 74 Copper River Salmon-Cordova, Alaska (Copyright Smith Photocraft?, 179)
- 76 Digging Razorback Clams. Warrenton Clam, Cordova, Alaska (Copyright Photocraft, Smith, 181).

Folder 3: duplicate photos