

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Tavlin, Dr. Edna V., 1892-1944

Dr. Edna V. Tavlin Photograph Collection, ca. 1925-1970 (bulk 1929-1933)

PCA 413

60 images, papers
7 folders

Processed: July-August 2000
By: Gladi Kulp

ACQUISITION: Ida Van Wald, daughter-in-law of Dr. Tavlin, donated the collection to the Alaska State Library in December 1999, Acc. no. 00-03.

ACCESS: The photographs may be viewed, however, the images 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 order of the images was retained; pages from the photo album remain intact. Papers accompanying the images were organized according to format and chronologically when possible.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Edna V. Tavlin was the first woman Dental Supervisor of Indian Affairs in Alaska from 1928-1933. Known as "Dr. Teddy, she spent several years traveling Alaska and the Yukon Territory by boat, dog sled, and plane to reach the remote native villages. She worked on the Yukon Hospital Ship *Martha Angeline*.

Dr. Tavlin was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1892. She practiced dentistry with her husband in Missoula, Montana. In 1928 she took her young son Carlos Van Wald to Alaska. Dr. Tavlin studied painting with Sydney Laurence and painted in his style. Dr. Tavlin also entertained those living along the Yukon as a pianist and organist. Besides working in Montana and Alaska, Dr. Tavlin practiced dentistry in Seattle and Burien, WA; she died in October 1944. She had one son, Carlos Van Wald who died in 1970.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection primarily includes photographs, drawings, paintings, and postcards. Correspondence, a biographical sketch, clippings and certificates comprise the remainder of the collection. Photos and drawings are primarily based on Dr. Tavlin's Alaska experiences. The collection spans the years from 1925-1970; the bulk of the collection includes 1929-1933 during Dr. Tavlin's Alaska service. Artifacts, e.g. baskets and dental equipment are housed in the Alaska State Museum. A totem pole was donated to the Alaska State Museum in 1969.

INVENTORY

- Folder 1:** Includes photos, a sketch by Carlos Van Wald and newspaper clippings
- 1a [Color image of Dr. Tavlin. Verso reads:] Deep sky blue eyes / fair complexion / white hair. Dresden colors
 - 1b [Dr. Edna Tavlin's business card]
 - 2 Wilhelm Yannert [sitting at table with miniature totems, painting paddle, one crutch propped beside him]
 - 3 [Native woman wearing scarf]
 - 4 Peter Bullitt [per album page, but writing on photo reads "Peter Bullet Father"]

- 5 Peter Tollovano [per album page, but writing on photo reads "Peter Tollovang, ___ of Bullet"]
- 6 [Native man]
- 7 Edna Marie Van Wald. 'Teddy' Daughter Carlos & Ida. Sidney Lawrence [sic] oil purchased from the artist by Dr. Tavlin for her son, Carlos Van Wald, Assist. Eng. on "*Martha Angeline*"
- 8 Carlos 1960
- 9 Across Sitka Bay
- 10 Saw Mill Creek
- 11 Dr. Edna Tavlin and son Carlos Van Wald
- 12 Carlos Van Wald, Assistant Engineer on the *Martha Angeline* Hospital ship
- 13 Dr. "Teddy" in her winter parka
- 14 Dr. Tavlin and son in front of Rex Beach cabin ["Rex Beach shack" written on front]
- 15 [two couples by ship railing]
- 16 Dr. Tavlin - Doctors - Nurses
- 17 *USS Martha Angeline* which plies the entire course of the Yukon River in summer rendering medical and dental aid to the natives of Alaska Dept. of Education
- 18 [three nurses on board ship]
- 19 Friends and patients with Dr. Tavlin [two Native women, man and boy with Tavlin]
- 20 Dr Tavlin and friend
- 21 [same man as in 20]
- 22 [woman in kuspuk with baby on her back]
- 23 Percy Hubbard's upside down landing! [upside-down plane]

- 24 A visit from Errol Flynn
- 25 [four boys]
- 26 [group photo]
- 27 Chief Amokin?
- 28 [boy in winter parka, mittens and boots]
- 29 [Tavlin outdoors. Verso reads "Oliver Koelsch, Law Student, Mrs. Ploughman, 1415 Rockefeller Ave., Everett]
- 30 [three figures standing by dog sled; verso reads "a winter scene - I don't know the gentlemen & ladies?"]
- 31 [Tavlin standing by cabin]
- 32 Rev. Edward Marsden, Curator Ak. Museum
- 33 [two people standing by McGee Airways airplane in snow]
- 34 [small boy dressed in fur clothing]
- 35 Taku [glacier at water's edge]
- 36 [a ridgepole and teepee-style tent in snow]
- 37 [Tavlin and two boys in village - unusual house with round earth-covered roof]
- 38 Carlos and 'Toklat' 1932 [dog]
- 39 Mail Driver breaks trail for the team [pencil drawing of man on snow-shoes ahead of dog team by Carlos Van Wald]

Folder 2: Photographs 40-60. Includes photos, sketches, postcards, greeting cards, a poem by Carlos Van Wald, and a book of monthly poems with a wooden cover

- 40 Son, Carlos Van Wald

- 41 Dr. Tavlin (Edna Van Wald) about 1940, Seattle
- 42 paintings by Dr. Tavlin, friend of Sidney Laurence - 1929-30
- 43 Laurence painting, 1960, Carlos, Ida, 'Teddy' Van Wald
- 44 [pencil drawing of Carlos?]
- 45 Carlos' "self portrait" 1955? [cartoon]
- 46 [photo of Carlos Van Wald]
- 47 [ink cartoon of totem carver]
- 48 Albert Von Wald
- 49 wife, Edna Marian Harman
- 50 son, Carlos Edward Van Wald (von changed to Van during war)
- 51 [Carlos as young boy]
- 52 Puukanis [Native woman. Verso reads: "My daddy and grandmommy"]
- 53 Foster dad, Yesuda, Carlos
- 54 [scenic of waterfall, mountains, water]
- 55 General Joshua and I , or When the Midnight Sun Stood Still for Me. [poem by T. N. H., July 24, 1932, On Board S.S. "Admiral Rogers"]
- 56 . . . ing River - Richardson Hwy. [postcard]
- 57 Easter Blessings Crown Thy Way [postcard with thanks from St. Mary's Mission, Akulurak, Feb. 28, '33]
- 58 \$1,200,000 in Gold, An Alaska Shipment. [postcard]
- 59 Flowers are abundant, very large and very beautiful in Alaska [man in front of cabin by flowers]
- 60 Potatoes grown in Alaska - farm produce grows much larger in Alaska than in the States and not infrequently cabbage will weigh 60 pounds per head. There

- are 115 growing days in Alaska in summer and during this time the sun shines an average of 18 hours a day. [a row of potatoes in front of potato plants]
- 61 Greetings from Akulurak Alaska [cover of card with fur balls for woman's parka, surrounded by colorful sky]
- 62 Greetings from Akulurak Alaska [dried flowers on purple and blue background]
- 63 [envelope addressed to Dr. Edna Tavlin, Seattle Washington, postmarked Jan. 28, 1940 from Akulurak, Alaska, with hand-tinted drawing of dog howling in winter scene]
- 64 On the Wings of Morning, Song and Lyrics by Carlos Van Wald, 1910-1970 [folded card with line drawing of man in morning]
- 65 How the Year Rolls By at Purgatory [Book of poems, one for each month, bound in birch bark cover, signed by Wm Janer?]

Folder 3: Correspondence

Folder 4: Papers including biographical sketch by Dr. Tavlin's daughter-in-law, Ida Van Wald, photocopy of collage of Edna Marie Van Wald (Teddy), certificates, and other documents

Folder 5: Newspaper clippings

Folder 6: Oil paintings (5) by Dr. Tavlin, 3 copies of paintings

Folder 7: Framed, illustrated poem, The Welcome Light Along the Trail, signed by ?? to Dr. Tavlin, Juneau, 1932

Folder 8: Originals of folder 1 newspaper clippings and copies of labeled album pages, originally on acidic self-stick pages.