

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

O'Connor, Edward B., Photographer

E. B. "Duffy" O'Connor Photograph Collection, ca. 1920s

PCA 422

31 photographs

Processed by: Rose Welton
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ACQUISITION: The collection was loaned for duplicating by Eric Dittrich, Acc. no. 2000-40.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

PROCESSING: The photographs were numbered by staff and housed in mylar. There was no original order to the collection; a few photographs have descriptions written on the back.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edward B. "Duffy" O'Connor left his home in Lawrence, Mass. at age 13 in 1891, working on cattle ranches while making his way West. In 1898, he headed north to Skagway for the Klondike gold rush, then traveling through the Alaska Interior to Chena, Council, and finally to Nome. O'Connor married a Native woman named Irene after they had both lost their previous spouses to flu. Along with prospecting and doing carpentry work, O'Connor hauled freight from Nome to Point Barrow and back with two schooners he had bought. The O'Connor family operated the Salmon Lake Roadhouse from 1918 to 1927, and also had a reindeer herd at their summer cabin at Salmon Lake, located 50 miles from Nome.

[Information from: "Reindeer Soup." In: *Alaska*, May/June 1996, p. 62-63]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains photographs primarily of the Nome region during the 1920's, including Salmon Lake, located 50 miles from Nome. There are photographs of E. B. "Duffy" O'Connor and his family, and camp scenes near Salmon Lake, including reindeer and dog teams. There are also photos of the S.S. *Victoria*, *Teddy Bear* schooner, Nome harbor scenes, M.G.M. snow houses for the movie "Mala," and Natives butchering a walrus.

INVENTORY

Most descriptions are taken from handwritten or typewritten notes on the back of the photos. Some descriptions are taken from the front of the photographs. In many cases, handwritten notes, probably by the donor, were included on negative envelopes. Many descriptions include supplied information indicated by brackets. In some instances there are up to three descriptions of a photograph: handwritten notes, typewritten notes and bracketed information.

Photographs:

- 1 Eagle measuring 8 ft., 9 inches from tip to tip, killed by E. B. O'Connor just after eagle had flown off with reindeer fawn weighing 27 lbs. and dropped it to kill it. Eagle killed [after fawn fell to the ground], Aug. 7, [19]24 [2 descriptions of photo: first is typed on back of photo; second is handwritten on negative envelope]

- 2 [E. B. O'Connor, left, and Native man]
- 3 E. B. O'Connor with two men and 17 dogs, hauling Capt. Sundback from Pilgrim Hot Springs Post Office to railroad, a distance of 7 miles, which took 5 hours to negotiate, over mail trail with Duffy's mail team [3 descriptions of photo: first is handwritten on back of photo; second is typed on front of photocopy of photo; third is handwritten on negative envelope]
- 4 E.B. O'Connor and wife [Irene] at home in Nome, Alaska, 1927
- 5-6 On mail route to Taylor
- 7 [E. B. O'Connor with arm around child on white reindeer; woman and child in fur parkas on left, Native man on right]
- 8 Winter travel with reindeer, Nome [typewritten from back of picture] Two of our old sled deer being driven for a load of wood by two of my oldest girls (10 & 12 years old) with two of the smaller children at Salmon Lake, 1924 [handwritten from back of picture] Two of my oldest children, girls, Matilda & Mary Ann, taking Geo. (5) and Grace (3) for a deer sled ride up to the end of Salmon Lake for wood for the home camp, 1924 [also description handwritten on negative envelope]
- 9 Kids going to take a fawn out to feed on grass and leaves after feeding it milk from [a] baby's bottle. Its mother abandoned it after some of the kids put their hands on it, as the mothers always do. 1. Matilda, 2. Mary Anne, 3. George, 4. Grace, 5. fawn, 6. reindeer dog, Spuck [note: drawing and numbers on negative envelope differ from numbering handwritten by O'Connor on back of photo]
- 10 [Woman, left, with 4 children and 2 dogs in front of building]
- 11-14 Camp scenes, children, reindeer [carcasses, dog teams], corrals near Salmon Lake, near Nome
- 15 Some of herd of E.B. "Duffy" O'Connor just reaching land after crossing river at lower end of Salmon Lake, 1925 [typed on back of photo]; View of part of reindeer herd (Duffy) E. B. O'Connor emerging from Salmon Lake, 50 miles back of Nome, Alaska, 1925 [handwritten on negative envelope]

- 16 Unloading S.S. *Victoria* on ice, spring 1909
- 17-20 Iceland explorer with two Natives who came around the Northeast Passage to northland & f__ [from?] there with Joe Barnard on "Teddy Bear" schooner & other ship scenes, Nome jetty, boats in Nome harbor, 1920
- 21 [Native man in suit standing in front of boat]
- 22 [Large group of Native people, mostly children, standing on river bank]
- 23-24 Snow houses built for movie "Mahla" for M.G.M. [handwritten on back of photo]; MGM snowhouses for movie "Mala," Ray Wise [handwritten on negative envelope; Ray Wise Mala acted in the movie]
- 25-29 E.B. O'Connor and Natives cutting up 30 tons of walrus meat received as part payment for services on a hunting and moving picture trip with Capt. L.L. Lane and Snow the Big Game Hunter and Movie Man, 1924 [typewritten on back of photo] ; Cutting up a walrus killed by Louis Lane's boat crew with charterers from Boston, Mass. 30 tons of walrus meat received as part payment for services on a hunting and moving picture trip with Capt. L.L. Lane and "Snow" the big game hunter and movie man, 1924 [handwritten on negative envelope]
- 30 Native of Nunivak Island named Ny-ang-uk, who was held in jail at Nome one year and two months without a trial, having been kidnapped by Lomen Reindeer and Trading Co.'s boat *Silver Wave* and brought to Nome and incarcerated in jail
- 31 Nunivak Island Natives brought to Nome to testify against another native named Ny-ang-uk, who was kidnapped by crew of *Silver Wave*, a Lomen Reindeer and Trading Co.'s boat and brought to Nome and held in jail one year and two months without a trial, and discharged when a no true bill was found in is favor by the Grand Jury, Jury being reprimanded by the judge for not finding verdict as mentioned