

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Taylor, Chester O.

Chester O. Taylor Photograph Collection, 1945-1947

PCA 425-7

1 Folder
5 photos, b&w

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Acquisition: Photographs were the gift of Marilyn Blanck and Sharon Crump, August 12, 2008. (Acc. No. 2008-026)

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Scope and Content Note

Activities of the Salvation Army in Hoonah, Kake, Klawock, and Valdez.

Historical / Biographical Note

Salvation Army Photos, Alaska 1945-1947

These photos were taken by Chester O. Taylor, divisional commander (executive officer) of the Salvation Army work in Alaska from 1945-1947. He was the first US Salvation Army officer to command the operations in Alaska, since heretofore they had been managed by the Canadian office of this organization.

When Taylor was appointed to this position in Alaska, he was delighted, since he had lived and worked there both before and immediately after his marriage to Grace Atkins. The Taylor and Atkins families were both from Bellingham, Washington.

Chester Taylor's brother was attorney Warren Taylor, who served ten terms in the Alaska Territorial/State legislature and had made his permanent home in Alaska since he was a young adult.

When first sent to Alaska, the Taylors lived in Wrangell, which had been the Salvation Army headquarters, but they soon moved their office to Juneau and established their home there. They also bought a boat they christened "William Booth", which they used to visit the small villages where their operations were located.

Subjects

Salvation Army
Hoonah
Valdez
Kake
Klawock

Inventory

1. Three adults in Salvation Army uniform and two girls in light-colored coats. Photo is labeled as "Envoy and Mrs. F. Anniskitti, Frances and Margaret - Klawock. The woman in uniform is Grace Taylor (Mrs. Chester Taylor).
2. Man in hat and light-colored jacket, woman in SA uniform standing on fishing boat. Photo is labeled as "Envoy F. Anniskitti [and Grace Taylor] on boat *Diamond C*, on way to Craig". (name of boat is not clear)
3. A parade of children, with US and Salvation Army flags at the head. Photo is labeled "Young People's Open Air - Kake, Alaska" (An "Open Air" was a street meeting where participants would sing songs, say a brief prayer, and invite their listeners to walk with them back to church for a meeting.) These children all seem to be girls. This picture is blurry due to movement of the girls in the parade.
4. Woman in dark coat and Salvation Army hat (not the traditional bonnet), standing at edge of wood-plank road. Photo is captioned "Valdez, Alaska, Sept. 1946." On the back is written: "The bridge is across a glacier stream and is on the highway to the Interior and Fairbanks. A lot of the freight for Fairbanks is put off the boat here and taken by__ (final word illegible). The woman is Grace Taylor (Mrs. Chester Taylor).
5. Shows children playing on a snow-covered street in front of facing rows of houses. Written on the back: "This is the fun that Alaska children have in winter. This picture taken in Hoonah." (enlargement is blurry)