

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Ruhe, Herman, d. 1941

Herman Ruhe Collection, ca. 1906-1909

PCA 426

3 boxes
1.2 lin. ft.

Processed by: Laura Wood
April 2002

ACQUISITION: Robert and Gloria Barret, executors of the Ruhe estate donated the collection to the Alaska State Library. Herman Ruhe was a Juneau business owner and city councilman in Juneau in the early 1900's. (Acc. No. 2002-19)

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

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

PROCESSING: Fragile glass plate negatives are housed in the collection. Please handle carefully. Many of the photographs are duplicates of the Winter & Pond or Case & Draper collections and have been cross-referenced.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Herman Ruhe was born in Germany in 1870 or 1871. He married Lizzie Stacey, of Omaha, Nebraska, in June 1896, and had three children: Ester Jane, Richard Melvin and Arthur James.

Arriving in Juneau in the early 1900's, he opened the Juneau Painting and Decorating Co. at 205 Seward Street, next door to the Arthur Ferte Sign Co.. He and Arthur Ferte became friends and later, business partners. Ruhe was active in BPO Elks 420 in Juneau and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

According to the *Seward Weekly Gateway*, Ruhe visited Seward on March 17 and 31, 1906, where he considered relocating his business. On April 2, 1907, however, he was elected to the Juneau City Council, a position that lasted until April 1908. In 1909 he and Ferte moved to Ellensburg, Washington, and formed another partnership, the American Painting Co. Ruhe and Ferte moved back to Juneau in 1912 and stayed until 1914. Ruhe's family remained in Ellensburg. It is possible that his business was located in Seward at some time during his stay in Alaska. Herman Ruhe died on September 14, 1941, in Ellensburg, Washington.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains 12 glass plate negatives and 35 mounted photographs of Juneau, Sitka, Dyea, Skagway, the Chilkoot Trail, and the Yukon Territory. A 28-page, bound scrapbook published in 1909 by Winter & Pond contains prints and photographs of Juneau and the surrounding area. The collection also contains a few of Ruhe's manuscripts.

INVENTORY

Box 1

Photographs

1. [Firemen (?) standing in line with equipment; no date.]
2. Juneau, Alaska June 1st, 1907. Case & Draper.
3. Indian Village, Sitka, Alaska, c. 1896. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-1502] (no. 315)
4. Indian winter quarters, Yukon Valley, Alaska. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-143] (no. 375)
5. [Group of Yukon Indians, Alaska. Title from original; same as PCA 87-144] (no. 122)
6. Yukoners breaking camp at mouth of canyon near Dyea, Alaska. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-666] (no. 130)
7. Camp of Yukoners in the Dyea Canyon, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-668]

8. On the Yukon trail near Pleasant Camp, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-685] (no. 335)
9. Yukoners in the Dyea Canyon, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-682] (no. 331)
10. Unloading freight on Skaguay [Skagway] beach, Alaska. c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-655]
11. Yukoners on the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-710]
12. On the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Yukon Trail, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-709, cropped] (no. 339)
13. General view of Chilkoot Pass, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-702] (no. 338)
14. Packing through the canyon, Skaguay trail, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-659] (no. 359)
15. Yukoners packing on the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, c. 1897. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-706] (no. 367)
16. Yukoners on the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, c.1897. Winter & Pond. (no. 341)
17. Yukoners at Crater Lake, Alaska, c. 1895. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-716] (no. 276)
18. Junction of Deadwood and Mastodon Creek trails, Yukon Valley. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-720] (no. 380)
19. Yukoners at Crater Lake, Alaska, c. 1895. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-2974] (no. 138)
20. Yukoners at Stone House, Alaska. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-2795] (no. 274)
21. Yukoners at Sheep Camp, Alaska. Winter & Pond. [same as PCA 87-686a] (no. 139)
22. [Unidentified ship unloading, horses and hay on wharf, rowboats in foreground.] [Williamette in Skagway. Karl Gurcke, 2/25/04]
23. Ascending to the summit of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska. Winter & Pond. (no. 125)
24. Yukoners passing through Canyon, Alaska, c. 1895. Winter & Pond. (no. 141)
25. Yukoners in camp at mouth of Canyon near Dyea, Alaska. Winter & Pond. (no. 275)

26. Unloading Yukon outfits at Wrangel wharf, Alaska, c. 1898. Winter & Pond. [*Princess Louise and Monte Cristo*] (no. 389)
27. Indian huts, Prince William Sound, Alaska. (no. 98)
28. Juneau, Alaska [no date, no photographer]
29. Frye-Bruhn Company's Meat Market. Dec. 23, 1907. Juneau, Alaska. W. H. Case.
30. [5 houses on dirt street. Painters (from Juneau Decorating & Paint?) standing on the porch of one house.]
31. [House under construction on hillside with man standing on porch.]
32. Juneau Paint & Decorating Company and Arthur Ferte Signs. [Herman Ruhe is third from left in front of his store; Arthur Ferte stands alone in his doorway; mounted on 10 ½ x 12 ½" board, 2 copies.]
33. 3rd and 4th grades public school Juneau, Alaska. W.P. Co. (no date) [students seated at desks; teacher standing at the back of the classroom; mounted on 10 ½ x 12 ½" board.]
34. Juneau, Alaska. c. Winter & Pond, 1903. [birdseye view from Mt. Juneau, looking down Gastineau Channel; mounted on 10 ½ x 12 ½" board.] (no. 483)
35. C.P.R.Co. *S.S. Princess May*, wrecked on Sentinel Is., Alaska. Aug. 5, 1910. W.H. Case. [calendar, c. 1911; mounted on 11 x 13 ½" board with photograph; same as PCA 39-772.] (no. 433)

Box 2

Documents

36. Articles of Partnership between Herman Ruhe and Arthur Ferte for American Paint Co., Ellensburg, Washington.
37. Statement by Nathanael Greene, City Clerk of Juneau, certifying the election of Herman Ruhe to Juneau City Council.
38. B.P.O. Elks' Minstrels, presented by Juneau Lodge No. 420, Elks' Hall [Program; contains photos, roster, history.]
39. Juneau Painting & Decorating Co., Seward, Alaska. [business card]
40. American Paint Co., Ellensburg, Washington. [business card]
41. American Paint Co., 205 Seward St., Juneau, Alaska.[business card]

42. Juneau City Council Standing Committees, 1907. [business card]
43. Eskimo curio venders, Sitka, Alaska. [postcard]
44. "Juneau, Alaska," c. 1909. Winter & Pond. 23 p. [scrapbook and envelope]

Box 3

Glass Plate Negatives

45. A winter moon (sun) light scene of city from Passell's porch.
46. Birdseye view of city from hill opposite Union way.
47. Birdseye view (nearer) of city from Passell's porch.
48. [Similar to: Birdseye view of city from Passell's porch]
49. From Behrend's corner looking up Seward St.
50. [Seated child holding American flag and doll]
46. [Wooded scene with waterfall]
47. [Wooded scene with stream]
48. [2 gravestones: Y. Kojima and Hamamoto (?)]
49. [Young girl sitting on fence]
50. [Unidentified image]
51. [Unidentified - with trees]