

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Gair, Catherine Frances "Kitty" Smulling

Kitty Gair Collection, ca. 1880 - 2002, bulk ca. 1930s-1980s

PCA 447

6 boxes
Slides
Photograph prints, b&w and color
Scrapbooks

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Laura Wood, Jan. 2004
Revised by: Sara Bornstein, Apr. 2014
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ACQUISITION: Contents of Box 1 & 2 were transferred from the Archives and Manuscripts Department of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Acc. no. 2014-018. There is no provenance on this material. The collection may have arrived with the Helen Dittman Beirne papers. Contents of Boxes 3-6 were donated by Helen D. Beirne in December of 2003, as part of Acc. no. 2004-003.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. All items placed into pH-neutral folders and archival boxes.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Catherine "Kitty" Frances Gair (nee, Smulling) was born Nov. 4, 1912, in Altoona, PA. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1934, she received a Public Health Nurse Certificate in 1939. She earned a B.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943, and a Master of Science in Child Psychiatric Nursing from Boston University in 1963.

Catherine Smulling came to Alaska in 1942 and served as a public health nurse for the Alaska Health Dept. from 1942-1945. She worked from 1946 to 1951 on the Alaska Territorial Health Department vessel, *MV Hygiene*, providing health care to Alaskan coastal villages. She worked at the Juneau Health Center from 1951 to 1954 and part time at the Alaska Native Health Service. Gair was a school nurse in Juneau from 1964-1971, retiring in 1971. She was a member of the Alaska State Hospital Advisory Board, member and president of the Juneau Hospital Board, member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism, President of the Alaska Nurses Association, District III, board member, secretary, vice president and then president of the Alaska Nurses Association, treasurer and secretary of the Mt. Juneau Chapter, National Society Daughters of American Revolution and Worthy Matron, Nugget Chapter 2, Order of Eastern Star.

She co-wrote *Alaska's Search for a Killer: 1946 -1948 A Seafaring Medical Adventure* describing the experience of working on the *Hygiene*. From 1969 to 1972 she edited *Alaska Nurse*. She published articles in the *Alaska Nurse*, *Journal of School Health*, and the *Juneau Empire*. She died at her Wasilla home in 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Boxes 1 & 2: Acc no. 2014-018

Slides; 1946-1972

(Originally Series 3 of UAA collection)

This series contains 45 folders of color slides. Folders 1-33 consist of views at various locations in Alaska and British Columbia. The slides are roughly grouped and arranged alphabetically by location. The slides in folders 34-45 are grouped by subject areas. The folders are arranged alphabetically. Examples of the subjects included are: animals, children, glaciers, and ships and boats.

Boxes 3-6: Acc no. 2004-003

Photographs, Scrapbooks, Guest Book, and Slides

In Box 3 are photographs of the *M/V Hygiene*, Kitty Gair, her husband, Angus Campbell Gair, and her in-laws, Annie and Alexander Gair (Scottish immigrants). The two scrapbooks in Box 4 are dedicated to Dorothy Russell's career with the Alaska

Department of Health and the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare. The scrapbooks contain biographies, photographs, and information and photographs related to the MV *Hygiene*. A signed Guest Book for the M/V *Hygiene* (1946-1947) is also included in Box 4. Boxes 5 and 6 (Slide cases) contain about 1,200 color slides related to the M/V *Hygiene*, staff, friends, Alaska, and Canada. The slides are labeled and roughly organized by time and place.

Among Kitty Gair's personal photographs are images of the *Hygiene*, coastal villages it served, patients, and employees. People and places from Gair's personal life and travels in Alaska are depicted in black and white and color snapshots and slides.

INVENTORY

BOX 1

Slides; 1946-1972 (*Originally Series 3 of UAA collection*)

Folder	Description	Dates
1	Alaska highways	1948-1969
2	Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands	1947-1948
3	Anchorage and Cook Inlet	1947-1954
4	Angoon and Hood Bay	1957
5	Atlin, British Columbia	circa 1949-1950
6	Bering Sea	1947
7	Fairbanks and interior Alaska	1948
8	Haines and Klukwan	1948-1955
9	Homer and Seldovia	1947-1950
10	Hoonah, Tenakee, and Elfin Cove	1946-1957
11	Hyder, Alaska and Stewart, British Columbia	1948
12	Juneau	1947-1953
13	Kake	1947, 1951
14	Kenai, Kasilof, and Ninilchik	1949-1950
15	Ketchikan	1947-1950
16	Kodiak and Afognak Islands	1946-1948, 1972
17	Metlakatla and Annette Island	1948, 1957
18	Mount McKinley National Park	1948, 1970
19	Nome and Seward Peninsula: Golovin	1947
20	Norton Sound	1947
21	Nunivak Island	1947
22	Palmer and Matanuska Valley	1949, 1959
23	Petersburg and Wrangell	1948-1972
24	Point Barrow	Undated
25	Prince of Wales Island	1948-1950
26	Prince William Sound	1947-1949, 1956

27	Saint Lawrence Island	1947
28	Seward	1946-1950
29	Shumagin Islands	1948

BOX 2

Slides; 1946-1972 (Cont'd) (*Originally Series 3 of UAA collection*)

Folder	Description	Dates
30	Sitka and Baranof Island	1947-1957
31	Skagway	1947-1950
32	Valdez	1946, 1950, 1969
33	Yakutat	1946-1950
34	Airplanes and aerial views	1946-1951
35	Animals	1947-1950
36	Children	1947-1950
37	Dogs	1949-1951
38	Fish and fishing	1947-1950, 1965
39	Flowers and plants	1947-1954
40	Glaciers	1946-1951
41	Parades	circa 1954
42	People	1947-1951
43	Ships and boats	1948-1951
44	Weddings	1950
45	Various slides: Joe Ibach house, cabins, entertainment, scenic views, RN dolls	1946-1959

BOX 3

Photographs. [No negatives received.] (*Originally Box 2 of PCA447*)

Folder 46,47 M/V *Hygiene* ship and Dept. of Health Mobile Health Unit (bus), employees, patients, Alaskan villages and residents.

Folder 48 Kitty Gair personal photographs - People.

Folder 49 Kitty Gair personal photographs - Places.

BOX 4

Scrapbooks and Guest Book. (*Originally Box 3 of PCA 447*)

1. Scrapbook dedicated to Dorothy Russell's career with the Alaska Department of Health and the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare, presented Nov. 16, 1960, her 20th Anniversary, dated. Includes photographs, employee signatures, brief professional biographical information, congratulations from Gov. Egan and Commissioner Winsor. Photos of the five territorial commissioners of health,

newspaper clippings, signatures, cards, invitations and programs. Contains clippings about her father, Dr. Albert John Baughman.

2. Scrapbook dedicated to Dorothy Russell upon her retirement from the Alaska Department of Health. Includes photographs and memorabilia, employee biographies, commissioners, information and photos of the M/S *Hygiene*.
3. Guest Book. *The Hygiene, 1946-1957*. Signed with dates, names, addresses and hobbies.

BOX 5

Slides. (*Originally Box 5 of PCA447*)

Slide Case 1

Drawer 1: Inverness -- Canada -- Edinburgh and castles in Scotland -- [Washington] DC -- Germany -- [24 unlabeled slides of the USA] -- London -- Queen, etc. -- New York -- Glasgow.

Drawer 2: Picnics 7-27-56 -- Snow -- Mac [dog] -- Parades -- Fritz Cove -- Juneau -- Xmas -- Haines.

Drawer 3: Misc.

BOX 6

Slides. (*Originally Box 6 of PCA447*)

Slide Case 2

Hygiene-Staff-Friends-Canada.

Drawer 1: Canadian West , SE, NE USA: Alert Bay -- Atlin -- Banff and Jasper -- Dawson -- Detroit and Chicago -- East [Lansing] -- Glacier [National] Park -- Lois and Canada -- Peace Garden (no slides) -- Prince George -- Prince Rupert -- SE USA - - Canada Hiways Scenes -- Canada RRs Scenes -- Whitehorse and [White Pass & Yukon Railway] -- Vancouver -- Victoria -- Colville -- '72 Snow, [mountain], glacier scenes.

Drawer 2: *Hygiene* Friends + AP: *Hygiene* -- Mobile Units -- Ala Na [no slides] -- Beltz -- Douglas people -- Howard -- Erickson -- Grays -- Leers -- Poors ? -- Seigs -- Snugders -- Douglas Star -- Teachers -- Visitors -- AP.

Drawer 3: Staff and Crew: [Alaska Dept. of Health Personnel] -- Harvey Allen -- Alice -- Bertha -- Bill Vernm -- Dr. Blair -- [Captains] -- Clyde and Gayle -- Mac, [Hygiene] crew, and staff -- Dr. Crim -- Dale -- [Miscellaneous doctors] -- Earl --

Elmer -- Evelyn Harris -- [Miscellaneous] friends -- Frank -- Forrest -- Group, picnics -- Harry Halverson -- Harvey -- Hernam -- Hodgkins -- J.B. -- Joogie -- Jim Brumbough -- John Berthquist -- Sam Lund -- Marge Roger, John - Meg -- Mess boys -- Al Multons -- Molenars Morgan etc. -- Dr. and Mrs. Pope -- Ray Westfall -- Rex -- Dr. Ruthenger -- Ronald -- June -- Dr. Schwinge --Herman and Sue -- Rusha Enar Haugen -- Dr. Schwinge -- Steve -- Sue -- Taku Dog -- Joe Tassel -- Wayne Ocasse -- Wilma.