

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Burrus, Donald

Donald Burrus Photograph Collection, ca. 1917 - 1975

PCA 466

12 Boxes
2 reels, 16mm film
Index binder

Processed by: James Simard
May 2007

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Donald Burrus' daughter Jean Kline in May, 2007. Acc. # 2007-014.

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

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

PROCESSING: Original order was maintained. Photographs in original envelopes were housed in acid free boxes. Four boxes of papers were separated from the photographs, and designated MS229.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Donald Burrus was born in Alta, Iowa in 1904, and educated in Washington State, with a BA from Spokane University in 1931 and an MA in education from Washington State in 1935. He became the manager of Alaska Native Arts & Crafts in 1944, retiring on December 31, 1971 at the age of 67.

Prior to arriving in Alaska, Burrus climbed both Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams in 1939. Upon arriving in Juneau he continued to climb and ascended most of the peaks in the Juneau area. He build a cabin in the Lena Beach area with his wife and friends.

Burrus traveled in northern coastal Alaska on the Alaska Native Service vessel *North Star* and in interior Alaska with several of the famous bush pilots, photographing the communities which he visited.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The clearing house was established in Juneau in 1938 as the marketing arm and the collection and wholesale agency of the Arts and Crafts Division of the Alaska Native Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs. It supplied raw materials, worked to preserve Native art forms, and encouraged conservation of natural material resources such as ivory. The clearing house later became the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association (1956). It was reorganized in 1984 to become the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Association, Inc.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1937 - 1938 Arts and Crafts Division was set up by Alaska Native Service in Juneau, Alaska. Virgil R. Farrell appointed supervisor, Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House established in Juneau.
- 1939 Government trademark issued for Alaskan Indian/Eskimo products to guarantee authenticity.
- 1940 Indian Arts and Crafts Board based in Washington, D.C. appointed arts and crafts demonstration teacher to position in Nome, Alaska.
- 1944 Managerial position instituted at Clearing House, salary furnished by ClearingHouse earnings.
- 1947 Clearing House redesignated from Education Division of Alaska Native

- Service to Native Resource Division.
- 1949 Adopted Alaska Native Arts and Crafts trademark.
- 1950 Eliminated 2% service-charge on merchandise and implemented conventional retail mark-up policy.
- 1956 Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Association, Inc., formed.
- 1961 ANAC received loan from Bureau of Indian Affairs. Discontinued policy of taking arts and crafts on consignment and began to purchase work directly from members.
- 1972 – 1973 Moved general operations to Anchorage, Alaska. ANAC Cache continued to do business in Juneau.
- 1974 Constructed warehouse which served as office headquarters and wholesale outlet, and opened retail gallery in downtown Anchorage.
- 1975 ANAC Cache in Juneau and Anchorage warehouse sold. Wholesale and retail operations consolidated in single gallery space into downtown Anchorage.
- 1984 Corporate structure changed from Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., to ANAC Association, Inc.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographs, primarily made by Don Burrus, illustrating the art and craft materials sold through Alaska Native Arts and Crafts. Also depicted are the craftsmen and villages. Some photographs are by George Dale. Collection includes a hand written index.

INVENTORY

ANAC Photo & negative index by Don Burrus. To this inventory has been added 26 pages of notes, copied from MS 229. These notes may have some correspondence to PCA466 Series 2, Box 10, photos taken by George Dale, or other materials in this collection.

SERIES 1

Box 1

A.T.E. – Artifacts, tools, equipment
Basketry

Box 2

Caribou hoof
Ceremonial bone
Chilkat blanketry
Commercial
Crafts areas
Craftsmen
Craft tools
Dolls, Eskimo
Dolls, S. E. [Southeast Alaska]
Exhibits
Games
Horn (reindeer)
Ivory

Box 3, 4

Ivory [continued]

Box 5

Ivory [continued]
Jade
Masks
Metal
Models

Box 6

Patterns and designs
Personnel ANAC
Pottery
Promotion, ANAC
Ptarmigan Quill
Raw products
Skin sewing

Box 7

Stone
Totems

Wood

SERIES 2

Boxes 8, 9 Same subjects as Series 1, arranged alphabetically.

Box 10

section 1 – unnumbered photographs

section 2 – photograph taken during voyages of the North Star

section 3 – photographs taken by George Dale (see notes added to Index from MS229 which may have some relationship with the photographs in this group).

SERIES 3

Box 11

Folder 1

People, ANAC Craftsmen

Folder 2

Nunivak-Style Ceremonial and Spirit Masks w/ Misc. Material

-73 small photos in envelope of Nunivak masks w/o negatives

-Walrus

-Halibut

-Half-Man Half-Wolf

-Seal

-Puffin

-Fox

-Whale bone ceremonial masks

-Miscellaneous human masks

-29 Medium photos in envelope of Nunivak masks w/o negatives

-Walrus

-Musk-ox

-Fox

-Ceremonial whale-bone masks

-10 Large photographs of Nunivak Masks

-Half-Man Half-Wolf

-Seal

-Ceremonial wood/ Whale bone

-Woman modeling Ivory necklace/bracelet

-2 Medium photographs Nunivak Masks

-Whale bone ceremonial

-6 Medium photos of Tlingit/Haida Silver

-4 medium photographs ANAC Promotion

-2 of ANAC logo

-2 of ANAC poster

-3 Small photographs of rye-grass dance fans

	-2 negatives of Misc. Ivory pieces
	-1 paper booklet of inventory
Folder 3	Carving villages
Folder 4	Ivory, Jade, Art, Models
Folder 5	Miscellaneous Crafts, People, "North Star"
Folder 6	Basketry
Folder 7	Skin sewing, Interior, Eskimo, Southeast
Folder 8	Peter Mayac, Milo Minock, Mary Willard
Folder 9	Booklet photographs, unorganized photos including King Island

[No Series]

Box 12 [filed after box 2]

Copies of Motion Picture 16mm, Reel 1 & Reel 2 on:

CD

DVCAM (Preservation copy)

Betacam SP (Preservation copy)

Original Film contents (for location see below)

Motion Picture 16mm, Reel 1

Product shots, depicting dolls, model totem poles, cutlery, masks, jewelry, sculpture, baskets, baleen products, bead work, gloves and bags. Products are shown and demonstrated by young woman.

Motion Picture 16mm, Reel 2

Carving demonstration, using adz. Carving earrings, modeled by young women.

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL FILM

Film stored in freezer on 7th floor

as of 12/01/11

Motion Picture 16mm, Reel 1

Motion Picture 16mm, Reel 2