

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Ruotsala, Jim, 1934-2007**

**Jim Ruotsala Photographs, 1934-2005**

**PCA 469**

4 Boxes – 3.0 linear ft.  
Photographs: b&w, some col.

Processed by: Staff, July 2007

**ACQUISITION:** Records were donated to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections by Mr. Jim Ruotsala himself in an ongoing accession process (Acc#2005\_13 ongoing).

**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. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

**PROCESSING:** The initial donation was split into two collections, MS 231 and PCA 469. This collection has been processed at the series-level. Original order was maintained when possible. Some items have been transferred to pH-neutral folders and all items were transferred into archival containers.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Juneau resident James "Jim" A. Ruotsala was born in 1934, and a third-generation Douglas and Juneau resident. At the age of nine, he began to frequent the Alaska Coastal Airline Seadrome where he developed his lifelong interest in Alaskan Aviation.

He joined the Alaska State Defense Force and Civil Air Patrol. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-56 and as a tank gunner in the Army Reserves from 1958-1963.

Considered one of Alaska's foremost aviation historians, Jim was selected for the 2000 Alaskan of the Year and received the prestigious Denali Award. First published in 1980, Ruotsala has written scores of magazine articles on Southeast and aviation history.

He published two major works in his lifetime; *Pilots of the Panhandle: Aviation in Southeast Alaska* (in 1997,) and its follow-up, *Alaskan Wings: Aviation in Southeast Alaska*, volume 2 (in 2002.)

He kept an aviation photograph collection totaling over 4000 images, many of which were copied from the personal collection of notable Alaska aviators. He also maintained a strong interest in maritime history and kept an extensive collection of historical maritime photographs.

He was a member of many organizations including Pioneers of Alaska, Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Moose Lodge 700, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

Jim Ruotsala died May 27, 2007 at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Materials in the collection include images primarily related to aviation history and maritime activity in Alaska, particularly the Southeast region. There are 71 negatives of the Goldstein Building and the Coliseum Theatre/ Apartments fires.

## SUBJECTS

Alaska aviation 1920-1946.  
Alaska maritime activities  
Southeast Alaska (Juneau, Douglas)  
Juneau Fires  
Goldstein Building

## Coliseum Theatre

**INVENTORY**

*The inventory is currently described at the series-level.*

**Series 1: Photographs****Box 1**

- Folder 1 Goldstein Building Fire. Negatives by Trevor Davis
- Folder 2 Coliseum Theater/Apts Fire. Negatives by Trevor Davis
- Folder 3 Aviation, Military, and Maritime
- Folder 4 Aviation, Military, and Maritime

**Box 2** Aviation, Military, and Maritime

Incomplete inventory of prints scanned from Box 2:

- asl\_p469\_2\_02\_20:** President Eisenhower in Anchorage, Alaska, 1960. [From photo verso]
- asl\_p469\_2\_02\_22:** Alaska Coastal Airlines Dock, Juneau, 1947. [From photo verso]
- asl\_p469\_2\_04\_65** thru 72: Coliseum Theater on Franklin St. burning. [From envelope with photos]
- asl\_p469\_2\_05\_02:** [U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Storis circling fishing boat]
- asl\_p469\_2\_06\_59:** [Tom Stewart in military uniform, World War II]
- asl\_p469\_2\_06\_60:** Judge Tom Stewart (right) receiving the Silver Star, WWII. [From photo verso]
- asl\_p469\_2\_06\_75:** [U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Storis] [1957]
- asl\_p469\_2\_06\_85:** U.S.S. Juneau (LPD-10). The third ship of the fleet honoring the capital city of Juneau, Alaska. Built by the Lockheed Shipbuilding & Construction Co., at Seattle, Washington. Commission on 12 July 1965. [From asl\_p469\_2\_06\_85 verso]
- asl\_p469\_2\_11\_01:** [Evergreen Bowl swimming pool, Juneau]
- asl\_p469\_2\_11\_07:** [Old and new Douglas bridges, Juneau]
- asl\_p469\_2\_11\_18:** [Franklin Street and Red Dog Saloon, Juneau]

**Box 3** Aviation, Military, and Maritime; Juneau**Box 4** Panorama Douglas; Pioneers of Alaska Grand Conventions

**Box 5** Two panoramas by photographer Ron Klein (*Located in the Vault on the Extra Long Panoramas Shelves; inside folder for PCA 419, at bottom*)

1. Group portrait of Alaska Coastal Airlines Reunion in Juneau, 1993. (See HE9813.A4 R49 1983 for reunion booklet with roster of attendees).
2. Group portrait of 64th International Sourdough Reunion in Juneau, September 28, 1996.

## INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

### Box 1

Negatives for:

Box 1 Folder 1: #1-30; [Goldstein Building Fire, 1939]

Box 1 Folder 2: #1-35; [Coliseum Theater/Apts. Fire, 1936]