

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Ray, William C.

William C. Ray Photograph Collection, ca. 1915-1930s

PCA 493

30 b&w negatives
20 Glass negatives

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann
October 2008

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by William C. Ray on May 17, 1984. Acc. # 2001-86.

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 item level. Original order has been maintained. The original donation included prints which seem to have been placed in other collections; possibly the Core File. The negatives were scanned for patron access.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William C. Ray (Bill) was born Nov. 3, 1916, in Gough, Texas, to Nason and Fern Cornelius Ray. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1934, and on July 10, 1939, arrived in Alaska. He worked on the docks in Petersburg for the Alaska Steamship Co. The lure of the North led him to Fairbanks in 1941, where he worked at the University of Alaska and the Glenn Carrington Co.

In 1942 Bill Ray moved to Anchorage and, on May 20, 1945, married Frances Pickolick. He worked in Civil Service for the U.S. Air Force as Property Administrator for the White Alice project, from its beginning, until retiring in 1973 to manage his real estate holdings. His work on the White Alice project took him across Alaska.

Mr. Ray was a member of Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo #15, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and the Good Sam Club. An avid photographer, he collected thousands of slides from around the state. He loved the outdoors and was a dedicated gardener.

[From William Ray's obituary, April 5, 1994]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographs by Mary Allen and J.E. Worden of Wrangell, Sitka, Port Armstrong, mainly. Most of the photos are of landscapes, ships, villages and people. Some photos are thought to be by Frank Byerly.

INVENTORY

Box 1

- 1 Interior of Chief Shakes house, J.E.Worden (glass plate 6 ½" x 8 ½")
- 2 - 12 Scenic glaciers (11 film negatives 6 ¾ x 10 ¾)
- 12a Ice bergs (3 ½ x 5 ½)
- 13 Salvation Army [group] (3 ½ x 5 ½)
- 14 Group People (negative 3 ½ x 5 ½)
- 15 Group People (negative 3 ½ x 5 ½)
- 15b Totems in front of shop [copy neg.]

Sitka

- 16 2 women and 2 goats on porch
- 17 View from harbor
- 18 Parade ground, baseball game?
- 19 View from water
- 20 Houses
- 21 View from water
- 22 Boats in foreground
- 23 Sitka with church and buildings
- 24 Block house

Images from Glass Plate Negatives

- 25 Sailor's grave [missing from collection]
- 26 Sitka [broken]. Possibly Mary Allen
- 27 Port Armstrong. Mary Allen
- 27a 4x5 film negative Wide shot, possible Port Alexander. Possibly Mary Allen
[Both 27 and 27a were originally housed together in green envelope marked #21-6.]
- 28 Scenic. Possibly Mary Allen
- 29 Scenic with leaning tree. Possibly Mary Allen
- 30 Ship Carmen [broken UR corner] Possibly Mary Allen
- 31 [glass plate positive, tinted] Snow scene
- 32 2 totems, Sitka. Positive copy on glass
- 33 Man, woman and child at edge of glacier. Possibly Mary Allen
- 34 Green rocks in the Wrangell Narrows [title taken from donor's notes]. Mary Allen
- 35 Wrangell. Mary Allen

- 36 Wrangell. Mary Allen
- 37 Fishing village - Port Alexander? Possibly Mary Allen
- 38 Three people on porch of log cabin. Mary Allen
- 39 Sunset through the trees. Mary Allen
- 40 Sunset through the trees. Mary Allen
- 41 Sunset through the trees. Mary Allen

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

Glass plates stored in Metal Cabinet in Vault

- 1 Interior of Chief Shakes house, J.E.Worden (glass plate 6 ½" x 8 ½")
- 26 - 41 glass negatives 5" x 7"

1 Box

Sheet film stored in freezer in Vault

- 2 - 12 film negatives 6 ¾ x 10 ¾
- 12a - 24 film negatives 3 ½ x 5 ½
- 27a film negative 5x7