

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Geeslin, Frederick Roosevelt, 1905-1993

Frederick Geeslin Collection, bulk 1931-1948

PCA 502

1 box
14 folders
451 photographic images
57 photocopied documents

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ACQUISITION: Transferred by Eric Swanson, Collection Manager of the Isabel Miller Museum, Sitka, Alaska, to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and accessioned on September 20, 2001. Acc. no. 2001-078.

Originally, the collection was donated to the Isabel Miller Museum by the Sitka Pioneer's Home after Mr. Geeslin died. The Isabel Miller Museum retained the photographs and documents relating to Sitka. Photographs and documents relating to Fred Geeslin's residences in the Southwest United States were sent to the Albuquerque Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: Folders 1 and 2 have been described at the item level. Folders 3-14 have been described at the folder level. All photographs have been placed in Mylar. All items were placed into pH-neutral folders and then into an archival box.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frederick Roosevelt Geeslin was born January 31, 1905, on a farm in Russelville, Ohio, the third of six children of John Titus Geeslin and Myrta Mae (Bourqin) Geeslin. He was graduated from Russelville High School in 1923 and attended Greenfield Business School in Greenfield, Ohio. He traveled west and on August 6, 1928, he became an assistant clerk with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the South Pueblo Agency in Arizona. He was assigned to the San Carlos Agency in Arizona on September 1, 1932, and it was there he met a nurse, Jessie Brownjohn, whom he married in October, 1933. He returned to South Pueblo in 1934, and then was transferred to BIA offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1937 he was transferred as a field aid to the Taholah Agency in Hoquiam, Washington. In 1939 he was named a chief clerk and stationed in Juneau, Alaska. During World War II he assisted in the relocation of Aleuts.

On January 1, 1948, Geeslin was transferred to Sitka to serve as assistant superintendent, and later, superintendent of the Alaska Native Service high school and medical facility on Japonski Island. The surplus buildings of the wartime Navy base on the island evolved into Mt. Edgecombe boarding school. Geeslin remained superintendent until July, 1955. He died at the age of 88 on July 6, 1993, at the Sitka Community Hospital.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This collection includes correspondence and photographs concerning Fred Geeslin's work with the Alaska Indian Service, including information and photographs concerning relocation and resettlement of Aleuts to Southeast Alaska, during and after WWII. Also included are images of Juneau, Alaskan villages and landscape, and Geeslin family portraits.

SUBJECTS

Fred Geeslin; Juneau; Alaska Indian Service; Aleut relocation; WWII; Aleutian Islands; St. Michael; Point Lay; Point Hope; Scammon Bay; Kivalina; Shismaref; George Ahgupuk; Lake Clark; Gambell; Kotzebue; Palmer; Anchorage.

INVENTORY

Folder 1 Obituaries for Frederick Geeslin

- 1 “Fred Geeslin Dies at Age 88” from the Daily Sitka Sentinel; Sitka, Alaska; Tuesday, July 6, 1993
- 2 “Services Set July 15 For Fred Geeslin” from the Daily Sitka Sentinel; Sitka, Alaska; Wednesday, July 7, 1993

Folder 2 Correspondence and documents

- 3 Job inquiry to Commission on Indian Affairs, 1931
- 4 Thank you, Holy Cross Mission, 1940
- 5 Letter to government teacher from superintendent re: Pacific Walrus, 1940
- 6 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 1 & 2, 1941 [non-official fiction]
- 7 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 3 [non-official fiction]
- 8 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 4 [non-official fiction]
- 9 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 5 & “Telegram” [non-official fiction]
- 10 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 1, General order no. 1 & 2 [non-official fiction]
- 11 DOMAIN OF BOREAS, REX, 1, General order no. 3 [non-official fiction]
- 12 Letter to Geeslin from Robert G. MacKenzie [personal]
- 13 Personal letter to Geeslin with illegible signature. OIA Field Service heading, 1942
- 14 Affidavit re: reclassification, 1942
- 15 Administrative document. Re: salaries, OIA, 1943 [3pg.s]
- 16 Salary change for Fred R. Geeslin, 1943
- 17 Coast Guard notice of vessel ownership, 1943
- 18 Application of license to operate vessel, 1942
- 19 Salary document, August 1943
- 20 Salary document, July 1943
- 21 Letter to Lt. William H. Price from George A. Dale, Assoc. Supervisor of Education. Re: Aleuts, Nov. 1943
- 22 Meet Joe Aleut, by George A. Dale [3 pg.s]
- 23 Efficiency Rating for Fred Geeslin
- 24 Native population statistics
- 25 Alaska Indian Service [AIS] Appropriations, 1945
- 26 Justification for AIS 1946 budget
- 27 Subjects to discuss w/ Wm. A. Brophy
- 28 Establishment of Voting Precinct, 1945
- 29 Subjects to discuss with Brophy [Re: native property, employment, and voting rights. Handwritten notes.]
- 30 Brief Outline of Alaska Native Service Activities [4 pg.s]

- 31 Memorandum to Geeslin from General Superintendent, 1944
- 32 Telegram, 1945. [Request for secretary “and not particular if black or white providing qualified to handle official business as do not plan continuing under past conditions”]
- 33 Memorandum to Geeslin from General Superintendent, 1945 [expressing confidence in Geeslin’s ability to “follow out the general policies of the office without any question.”]
- 34 Efficiency rating, 1945
- 35 [Dept. of Interior concerning promotion. Notice to employees re: conduct, verso, 1945.]
- 36 Please file with ACS crypto...
- 37 Translation of Coded Message
- 38 To Commanding General, July, 1945. [re: Aleut return to the Aleutians from Southeast Alaska]
- 39 [1945, note to Geeslin from Brophy.]
- 40 Alaska Travel Control, 1944 [re: Unalaska]
- 41 [Payroll receipt]
- 42 [Pay related document]
- 43 [Travel related document, Sept. 1945]
- 44 [Note from Elmer P. Rohde, Captain re: photos of hunting trip with Geeslin]
- 45 [Re: Aleut resettlement]
- 46 [Repeat of item 32]
- 47 [Thank you from General Superintendent Foster in lieu of compensation for time in Aleutians, December 1945]
- 48 [Re: Geeslin’s request for overtime pay, 1946]
- 49 Efficiency Rating, 1945-1946
- 50 Memorandum [re: pay]
- 51 Circular to Native Stores, 1946. From D. L. Burrus. Mgr., Arts & Crafts. Re: Walrus Ivory, and “Walrus Act”
- 52 For the Protection of Walruses in the Territory of Alaska
- 53 [Thank you from General Superintendent for assuming responsibilities]
- 54 Office Memorandum
- 55 Lions Clubs Member certificate
- 56 Letter from General Superintendent [thanking for assuming responsibilities]
- 57 [Non-official personal writing]

Folder 3 (#58-108) [Family portraits, fishing, boating on the *Barbarba V*]

Folder 4 (#109-156) [Family portraits, travel, outdoor activities, cabin scenes]

Folder 5 (#157-215) [Juneau Photographs]

- Folder 6** (#216-267) [Family portraits, boating on the *Barbara V, Pal Juneau*, landscapes]
- Folder 7** (#268-271) [Family with fish and canoe in Juneau?, Mendenhall Glacier, holiday cards with photo images]
- Folder 8** (#272-299) [Ship travel, landscapes, Alaska S.S.CO., Ft. Yukon, people and landscape portraits, totems, military personnel], artist Ahgupuk photographed by Roy Dickson 1939 (#289)
- Folder 9** (#300-322) St. Michael Mission, Point Lay, Shishmaref, Lake Clark, Kivalina, Gambell, Palmer, [Steam bath house?]
- Folder 10** (#323-335) [Russian church, caribou, caribou and hunter, landscape Alaska, aboard ship]
- Folder 11** (#336-351) [Tractor, snowy village, landscape, ship from dock, village, army construction?, dummies in fox hole?, ship from dock and on water, residence?], Aleutian Art Shoppe[sign on building], *Kim*[boat]
- Folder 12** (#352-378) Shishmaref, Anchorage Federal Building, Leaving Kivalina, Tenalian Point Lumber Co. on Lake Clark, Nome, Cape Lisburne, [U.S. military, evacuation boat?, Russian church, foxes]
- Folder 13** (#379-402) Scammon Bay, Fairbanks train, icebergs, ship, Point Hope, community natural ice house in Kotzebue, Point Lay
- Folder 14** (#403-451) Scammon Bay, Pt. Lay, Cavota's[sign on building Nome], Wien Alaska Airlines[sign on building], Lake Clark, George Agopuk's[Ahgupuk] home Shishmaref, [fish camp?, landscapes, seabirds, cemetery, residence with sled dogs, village with stone walls, canoe filled with Aleut people, photos of Aleuts, military, and other people gathered in large town, caribou, caribou with hunters, ships, villages, landscapes.]

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

2 Boxes

Negatives have been separated into two boxes. **Box 1** contains negatives with corresponding prints. The negatives in **Box 2** have not been scanned and have no prints. All negatives have been placed into archival paper sleeves. A number of the negatives and photographs are damaged, likely by water. Most negatives 3 x 5.

Box 1 - 151 silver and celluloid negatives. #107 - 424 not consecutive

Box 2 - 54 unprinted negatives