

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Van Sandt, Barry

Barry Van Sandt Family Photograph Collection, 1945-1949

PCA 503

2 Photo albums
79 photographs
Correspondence

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ACQUISITION: The Barry Van Sandt photo collection was donated by Barry Van Sandt to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections in May, 2001. Accessioned on September 12, 2001. Accession #2001-069.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. Original order maintained. Photographs have been placed in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Van Sandt family moved from Wewoka, Oklahoma, to Juneau, Alaska, in October, 1945. Dr. Max M. Van Sandt (1904-1961) had accepted the position of Medical Officer in charge of the Juneau Indian Hospital. He came to Juneau with his second wife and three children, Barry Van Sandt being the oldest child. The Van Sandt family lived about two years in Juneau and about two years in Sitka, Alaska, at Mt. Edgecumbe.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Barry Van Sandt photo collection consists of photos taken by Barry Van Sandt in the Juneau and Sitka areas or collected by him during 1945-1949. The collection includes photographs, an explanation of each photograph, a short family biography, and an obituary for Dr. Max Van Sandt.

SUBJECTS

Juneau, Sitka, 1945-1949, Cobol, Japanese submarine, Skiing Douglas Island, rope tow, Sheep Creek Valley, flume, Alaska Native Service

INVENTORY

Notebook: Dr. M. M. Van Sandt Family Photo Collection, 1945-1949 [white notebook]

Page 1

1. Richard, Marcia, and Barry Van Sandt on Fifth Street next to their house. It says "Before the big snow" on the back.
2. Barry Van Sandt "Shamrock" derby car on race day, probably in 1946.
3. Alaska Airlines plane at their dock. Barry's job included meeting the planes and keeping them from hitting the dock, tying them up, helping passengers off, then cleaning and washing the planes after we put them on the elevator lift to the hangar. Feb. 1946.
4. Marcia, Richard, and Barry Van Sandt on Mt. Roberts trail. Douglas is across from "paw" of Juneau below.
5. Marcia Van Sandt on Fifth Street across from grade school in 1945.

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1. Van Sandt's first home in Alaska at 437 Seward Street. The kids lived in the basement and parents upstairs.
2. Ruth Van Sandt and Barry Van Sandt with 22 rifle on Mt. Juneau trail.
3. Downtown Skagway 1946.

4. Van Sandt second home at 522 A 10th Street.
5. A Junior High Concert.

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1. Water being released from the Dam.
2. Sheep Creek cabin and flume.
3. Richard Van Sandt and friend Vickie at the Sheep Creek cabin.
4. Richard Van Sandt on right and friend with the Sheep Creek flume in the background.
5. Barry Van Sandt with Sheep Creek flume in background.
All pictures taken during the winter of 1946-1947

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1. "Third Ski Cabin" on Douglas Island. The trail started across the road from the Douglas Island Bridge that was there in 1946.
2. Water hole at the "Third Ski Cabin" after a fresh snow.
3. Jerry Darling in the entrance of the "Third Ski Cabin"
4. Jump hill on the ski trail. Mt. Juneau is in the background.
5. Mountain on the north side of the ski trail. Picture was taken from cabin.
6. Jerry Darling on ski trail.

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All three pictures are of Van Sandt second home in Juneau at 522 A 10th Street taken in Spring of 1947. The house has been remodeled and is now (2000) used by an architectural firm. Barry had built a dark room in the basement which was used by the original owner of the architectural firm for many years. The present owner, son of the architect, says there are still remnants of the dark room in the basement.

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1. Barry Van Sandt ready to ski. Picture was taken from front porch of 522 A 10th Street. Skis were oak with no steel edges. The next year Barry bought some WWII surplus white wooden skis with steel edges.
2. Alaska Native Hospital ambulance that Dr. Van Sandt brought home one day.
3. Gold Creek taken from the foot bridge at 10th Street.
4. Van Sandt house at 522 A 10th Street taken from Gold Creek foot bridge.
5. Dr. Van Sandt in front of 522 A 10th Street.
6. Van Sandt second home in Juneau, 522 A 10th Street.

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1. Mt. Juneau from Dr. Van Sandt's office at the Alaska Native Hospital.
2. Picture of Princess ship before departure.
3. Barry Van Sandt (w/sun glasses) at dock before boarding one of the Princess ships

for a trip to Vancouver in 1947.

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1. Postcard with picture of Juneau and Douglas Islands and a five cent Air Mail stamp dated Sept. 20, 1947. None of the family recognizes or remembers the names on the card.
2. The center picture of Juneau has the following inscription on the back written by Dr. Van Sandt: "The hospital on the "Flats" 120 steps down from where I'm standing - Bridge over Gastineau Channel and Douglas Island in the background." There is a Brown line on the picture to Alaska Native Hospital.
3. Juneau Grade School, 1946. "The grade school and mountain - as seen from the 5th Street side of Van Sandt home," 437 Seward.

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1. St. Michael's Church.
2. Sitka Post Office.
3. Shops east of the Post Office. A façade has been built on the front since this was taken.
4. St. Gregory's Church. The right wing of the church had been torn down when we saw it in Sept. 2000.
5. Sitka High School. It is now an apartment building or condominium. James (Jim) Rush is in the foreground.

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1. New Hospital under construction in 1947 on Mt. Edgecombe.
2. Retirement Home for Alaska pensioners.
3. The boat house behind Van Sandt home on Mt. Edgecombe or Japonski Island that Barry and Richard built in 1947 and early 1948 from surplus materials scavenged from various construction sites on the island. It had a creosoted timber ramp and a boat skid that was winched, in along with the boat, so it could be pulled up into the boat house when the tides were abnormally high.
4. The front of the Van Sandt home on the north end of Japonski Island. It was one of Four similar houses for the Administrative Offices of the Alaska Native Service. Most were doctors.
5. Alice Island Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

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1. Right front of Van Sandt home on Japonski Island.
2. Left front of Van Sandt home on Japonski Island.
3. Boat house Van Sandt boys built behind house. See previous page of pictures for rear view and explanation.
4. Sitka Post Office.
5. Back of house next to Van Sandt home on the south towards the Bachelor Officers'

Quarters.

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1. Russian blockhouse in Sitka.
2. The back of the Bachelor Officers' Quarters as seen from the back of the Van Sandt Home with Arrowhead Peak in the background.
3. The front of the Bachelor Officers' Quarters as seen from the board walk on the road down to the PBY aircraft hangars. Barry drove buses and piloted shore boats during the summers of 1948-49. He would drive the bus around the island to pick up and drop off passengers, then pilot the shore boat to Sitka and back.
4. House north of Van Sandt home on Japonski Island.

Pages 13-15

1. Governor's Mansion, Juneau
2. Taku Glacier
3. Taku Glacier
4. Government Building, Juneau
5. Mendenhall Glacier Lake
6. Fishing boat
7. Mendenhall Lake
8. Juneau and Douglas
9. Taku Glacier
10. Mendenhall Glacier
11. Juneau and Douglas Island
12. Juneau at night
13. Juneau Gold Mine

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1. Tourist Steamer at Taku Glacier, Alaska.
2. "Northwestern" - Juneau, Alaska.

Notebook: untitled [maroon notebook]

1. Picture of the "First Conference of Alaska Territorial Medical Association." My father, Dr. Max M. Van Sandt, M. D., is the second person standing on the right. He wrote the names shown in brown ink and my step-mother, Mrs. Ruth B. Van Sandt, wrote in blue ink. We moved to Juneau in October 1945 and the meeting was held in March 1946. Dr. Van Sandt was the Medical Officer in Charge of the Alaska Native Hospital in Juneau. This picture and the one under Item No. 4 were obviously taken during the same meeting [at] the Baranof Hotel since the draperies appear to be pinned exactly the same and the ties the doctors are wearing appear to be the same.

2. A listing, prepared by Mrs. Ruth B. Van Sandt, of the doctors in the picture (Item No. 1), her comments and observations about various doctors and nurses, their work and families, and a partial history of my father's positions, work and activities in the Alaska Native Service, U. S. Public Health Service, and Federal Civil Defense Administration until his death in 1961. While there are some personal comments, etc., they are her recollections and should be read as she wrote them. This list was started in 1998 and finished in 1999.
3. A copy of a letter written by Mrs. Ruth B. Van Sandt, who now lives in Phoenix, Arizona and is in her 80's. The letter was written on December 1, 2000, to my granddaughter to tell her about my father, Dr. Max M. Van Sandt, her great grandfather, before she was to take a trip to Washington, D.C. This letter gives more historical information about Dr. Van Sandt.
4. Picture of the "First Alaska Medical Meeting - March 1946." Item No. 5 identifies many of the participants.
5. Copy of the picture in Item No. 4 with many of the meeting participants identified by Ruth B. Van Sandt (blue ink) and Barry K. Van Sandt (black ink).
6. Picture of Uptown Section of Juneau, Alaska, with several buildings identified by Dr. Max Van Sandt by numbers on the back. Note: The copies of Item No. 6 to the left and below are to help identify the numbers on the picture and the buildings.
7. Picture of the Van Sandt Family's first house in Juneau, Alaska. It is the white house in the center and is on the southeast corner of Fifth Street and North Franklin Street. There was no number on the house when we lived there in 1945-47 (we had a P. O. box) and there wasn't a number on the house when we visited Juneau in September, 2000.
8. Picture of Mt. Edgecombe and Sitka, Alaska, taken by "The Photo Shop Studio" dated 5-21-49 with numbers written on the picture which were identified on the back of the picture by Dr. Van Sandt. The "boat house" he mentioned was built during the first year we lived there 1947-48 by my brother and I at ages 13 and 16. It was built out of surplus logs, lumber, creosoted lumber and tin we found on "the base" i.e., Mt. Edgecombe.
9. A copy of Item No. 8 with arrows and numbers shown to easily identify the various locations.
10. A copy of the back of Item No. 8 showing my father's handwritten notes identifying the buildings, etc.
- 11-14. The two pictures No's. 11 and 12 are of Dr. Max M. Van Sandt in Unalakleet, Alaska, during Thanksgiving, 1946. The two pictures 13 and 14 were taken on the same trip in Nome, Alaska.

Typescript: "Van Sandt Family Experiences in Alaska, May 8, 2001, by Barry K. Van Sandt."