

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Steers, Ernest W.

Ernest W. Steers Photograph and Log Book Collection, ca. 1901-1923

PCA 519

1 Box, 9 folders

80 b&w photographic prints, assorted sizes

3 log books, 1 journal

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, Sept. 2009

Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, May 2012

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was donated by Marcy Steers Cusato September 14, 2009. Acc. # 2009-36. Ernest Walter Steers was the donor's great uncle. Ernest Walter Steers and his spouse, Charlotte Steers had no children and after Ernie died, Charlotte Steers gave the collection to the donor's parents, Mary and Cy Steers. Cy had worked with his uncle Ernie on the tug *Chief* when he was in high school and college, approximately 1927-1937.

**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. All items were placed in Mylar. The original envelopes for the log books and journal have been retained and placed in the appropriate folder. The collection had been placed in pH-neutral folders in original order.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ernest Walter Steers was born December 16, 1879 in Oregon City, Oregon, and died November 18, 1946 in Ketchikan. He and his brother, Marion Bert Steers, arrived in the Ketchikan area by the early 1900s. They prospected and eventually, Ernie ran tug boats towing logs and ships from Ketchikan for the rest of his life.

Chronology of experiences in Alaska:

1898-1906	Worked at Dolomi Alaska
1905	Towed the sawmill equipment from Dolomi
1908-1909	Worked in Ketchikan
1910	Took the steamer <i>Bertha</i> to Katalla, wintered in Sitka
1916	Towed with the launch <i>George B</i> out of Ketchikan
1917	Towed with the <i>Spray</i> which he owned
1918	Spent part of the winter in Southern California, towed with the <i>Spray</i> in summer
1923	Bought the <i>Chief</i> , which Ernie operated until he died

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographic scenes of Dolomi, Ernest W. Steers, friends, family, and his boats, as well as Katalla, Ketchikan, McKinley, Holy Cross, Bering Sea. The collection includes two boat logs, a workmen's time log book from Dolomi days, and a journal of Mr. Steers' trip to Katalla.

## SUBJECTS

Ernest W. Steers, Dolomi , Ketchikan, Katalla, tugboats, mining.

## INVENTORY

### Folder 1

- 1-1 Bill Polson-Only one who had a camera.
- 1-2 Mine at Dolomi
- 1-3 "The Capp Kids," Dad says. Beach at Dolomi.
- 1-4 Bridge across the head of the bay at Dolomi. A group of younger folks at Dolomi.
- 1-5 John Powell with banjo, Bert Steers with book, Bill Polson cleaning gun.
- 1-6 Bill Polson-Bert Steers, Ernie Steers-John Powell.
- 1-7 Bill Polson
- 1-8 Mining camp back up in woods back of Dolomi.
- 1-9 Capp's house. Doesn't recognize people.
- 1-10 Bill Polson?? Brother of Polson hardware in Seattle.
- 1-11 May & Frank Capp.
- 1-12 Amy Capp at Dolomi about 1904 to 1906.

- 1-13 Bill Polson and Amy Capp.
- 1-14 Two of the Dolomi families.
- 1-15 Amy Capp (Looks like her, Dad says). She was "the Young Lady of Dolomi".
- 1-16 Bill Polson
- 1-17 Fishing in bay at Dolomi.
- 1-18 Workmen's Time Book. April 1901 - December 1902

## Folder 2

- 2-1 Leger - Ernest Steers - From Ketchikan to Katalla on steamer *Bertha* - Jan.24, 1910 - March 7, 1910.
- 2-2 Mrs. Nellie Barthlomew & sister & Mr. Sam Barthlomew.
- 2-3 [Postcard to] Ernest W. Steers, Katalla, Alaska. Sumas, Wash.; Apr 3, 1910.[Postmark] Sumas, Wash. 4-2-10 "Dear Ernest, This fellow's machine made me think of your bike and your perambulating over the orchard in the old mower Remember? - Take good care of my boy, I love him." [Photograph of airplane, inset of Charles K. Hamilton at the wheel]

## Folder 3

- 3-1 Ernest W. Steers 1916, 17- Log of *George B, Spray* (Sunde & d'Evers Co., Colman Dock, Seattle, Wash.)
- 3-2 Ernest W. Steers 1918-California, Towing out of Ketchikan (Compliments of P.J. Gilmore, The Clothier, Ketchikan, Alaska)
- 3-3 *George B*
- 3-4 "*Spray*"; Between '18 to '23 [?] the rocks on the bow to hold her in place. Ran aground - but they got her off.

## Folder 4

- 4-1 *Chief* pulling log boom [Postcard]
- 4-2 *The Meteor*
- 4-3 *Meteor* became a barge for God's sake
- 4-4 *The Chief* rescuing the *McKinley*
- 4-5 City float Ketchikan [Two women standing on floating walkway]
- 4-6 *The McKinley* beached near Port Alexander maybe.
- 4-7 So. California, probably late 20s or early 30s. Alaska license on car - probably Ernie's.
- 4-8 [View down boardwalk, buildings on each side.]
- 4-9 A picnic
- 4-10 Big Ketchikan picnic. Groups of people went to Black Sand Beach or some such.
- 4-11 [Man standing in rocky area holding pick, may be mining]
- 4-12 A mine
- 4-13 Must be the Navy Flyers on Round the World flight - pulled up on beach at dairy near Saxman. 1920s.
- 4-14 Mary Pickford and probably General Pershing
- 4-15 Transport *Henderson*, President Harding aboard. Ketchikan, July 7, 1923.
- 4-16 On the Mendenhall Glacier, Ernest Steers.

- 4-17 [Man standing on glacier with walking stick in hand, Ernest Steers. *Similar to 4-20*]
- 4-18 Ernest Steers
- 4-19 "Alert" while still a steamer
- 4-20 Ernest Steers [Man standing on glacier with walking stick in hand. *Similar to 4-17*]

### Folder 5

- 5-1 Spruce McKinley Park
- 5-2 Riley Cr., McKinley Nat. Pk.
- 5-3 Part of Holy Cross. Yukon River.
- 5-4 On Alaska Gov't R.R. McKinley Park Hotel[Sign]
- 5-5 Near summit. Alaska R.R.
- 5-6 R.R. tunnel at Healy - Gov't Road.
- 5-7 McKinley Nat'l Park.
- 5-8 Birches - McKinley Park.
- 5-9 Wreck str. *Tanana*. Tanana River.
- 5-10 Banks of Kvichak. 20 miles from Bristol Bay.
- 5-11 Coming out of fog to cannery. Ships. Bering Sea.
- 5-12 Winter quarters. Kvichak River.
- 5-13 4 ½ days tow. Bering Sea.

### Folder 6

- 6-1 Ernest W. Steers [Portrait]
- 6-2 Ernest Steers. Very early 1900s
- 6-3 Ernest Steers. Cy Perkins - bounty hunter-eagles, wolves, etc. Prospector.
- 6-4 Ernie Steers. [Portrait]

### Folder 7

- 7-1 Sitka, Alaska. Courtesy White Pass & Yukon Route.
- 7-2 Prince Rupert, B.C. Courtesy White Pass & Yukon Route.
- 7-3 An iceberg from Taku Glacier. Photo by Winter Pond.
- 7-4 Mount Edgecumbe, Alaska. ©Winter & Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-5 An Alaskan sunset. Winter & Pond Co. Photo.
- 7-6 Taku Glacier, Alaska. ©Winter & Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-7 Wrangell, Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-8 Skagway, Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-9 Mountain Glacier: Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-10 Chilkoot Barracks & Haines, Alaska. ©Winter & Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-11 Juneau, Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co.
- 7-12 Taku Maid. ©Winter & Pond Juneau.
- 7-13 Indian Village- Alaska. ©Winter & Pond Juneau.
- 7-14 Petersburg and Wrangell Narrows - Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-15 Douglas, Alaska. Photo by Winter Pond Co. Juneau.
- 7-16 10. "Princess May" wrecked on Sentinel Island. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1910. Winter & Pond.
- 7-17 12. "Princess May" wrecked on Sentinel Island Reef. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1910. Winter & Pond.
- 7-18 *Princess May*. Aug. 5, 1910. W.H. Case.

## Folder 8

- 8-1 Charlotte Steers at Dolomi Mine in 1923.
- 8-2 Bridge across head of bay at Dolomi. [5 children in foreground]. *Similar to 1-4.*
- 8-3 Bill Polson. *Similar to 1-1.*
- 8-4 [Piece of machinery mostly hidden in overgrowth]
- 8-5 The Capp kids. [Three children in a rowboat]. *Similar to 1-3.*

## Folder 9

Photocopies of obituaries and biographical information