

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Byers, Shina and Maude Margeson

Byers and Margeson, Papers and Photographs, ca. 1900

PCA 521

Photograph album
Scrapbook
2 studio portraits

Processed by: James Simard, Sept. 2009
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ACQUISITION: The collection is the gift of Ted and Diane Freres, Accession # 2009-38. The donation included a travel make-up kit which was transferred to the Alaska State Museum as a study item. Wendell Freres, great uncle to Ted Freres, left the collection in what became the Ted and Diane Freres' home in Oregon.

ACCESS: Open to research according to the policies of the Alaska State Library.

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

PROCESSING: Photograph album and scrapbook are un-inventoried.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

This collection represents the story of a group of entertainers; Shina Byers and Maude Margeson, along with her son Norman (Snooks) Margeson, and a variety of other performers who found their way from San Francisco to Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Oregon and Seattle via train and ferry. Possibly due to a fire in the Oberon Theater in Seattle, Byers and Margeson arranged a tour to Alaska and the Yukon Territory, performing in Juneau, Skagway, Lake Bennett and Dawson. Byers and Margeson were billed variously as "The greatest team in the Northwest", "The Novelty 2", "The Favorite Vocalists", and "The Clever Contortionist Dancers".

Wendell Freres, who traveled with the performers and was a Faro dealer in Dawson, had a connection with Shina Byers, though they were never married.

Shina Byers' sister was married to J.B. Libby, manager of the Puget Sound Tugboat Company. Libby ran for public office as representative of Jefferson County. This sister, F. Byers, opened a Seattle business called the Delmonico Restaurant.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photograph album, framed photos, and scrapbook documenting the West Coast performance tour of entertainers Shina Byers, Marge Margeson, Maude Margeson, and Young Norman (Snooks) Margeson. Primarily Juneau and Dawson, ca. 1900.

The collection includes newspaper clippings, photos and playbills from performance venues including the Oberon Concert Hall (Seattle), The Savoy, the Juneau Opera House (Juneau), the Louvre Theatre (Juneau), and the Monte Carlo Dance Hall in Dawson.

INVENTORY

Photograph album
Scrapbook
2 studio portraits