

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Robertson, Frank

Dr. Frank Robertson Collection, ca. 1944-1946

PCA 525-7

3 Folders
340 Color slides
35 b&w photographs
Personal correspondence (2 pages)
Newspaper issues and clippings

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Frank G. Robertson was born December 20, 1915. His family moved to Arkansas in 1921. There he graduated from Benton, AR High School in 1933. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1937 and the U. of A. in 1941. He served as an intern and resident physician in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1943 and 1944. He went into the army in 1944 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He served in Alaska in the Medical Corps from Dec. 1944 until honorably discharged in 1946. Dr. Robertson spent much of his time in Alaska at Fort Richardson, but also had temporary duty in Galena, Alaska, after a flood there. Dr. Robertson was one of two military doctors sent out to minister to the survivors of the sinking of the *S. S. Yukon*. He was also dispatched to Unga Island for medical treatment of diphtheria cases. Moreover, Dr. Robertson delivered the first baby at 183rd Station Hospital after dependents were allowed to come to Alaska after WWII was over. The rest of his career he spent as an Obstetrician/ Gynecologist in St. Louis. He and his first wife had four children. He re-married after his wife died.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Color slides of Alaska scenes, primarily Southwestern Alaska, ca. 1944-1946.
Photographs (b&w) and papers related to the February 1946 S.S. *Yukon* wreck, rescue, and medical care of survivors.

SUBJECTS

Fort Richardson, Chugach Mountains, Galena, Cook Inlet, Susitna, Knik Arm, Lake Spenard, Idle Hour Club, Cold Bay, Pavlov Volcano, Unga, Shumagin Islands, Matanuska Glacier, Gulkana, S.S. *Yukon*, Army Medical Corps, Alaska, 1940-1944, WWII

INVENTORY

Folder 1 - Alaska Scenes (#1-222)

- 1 Ft. Richardson Alaska, Post gate
- 2 Post street, Ft. Richardson
- 3 154th Sta. Hosp 1945
- 4 Lt. Potts, Alaska. 1945

- 5 Chugach Mts. Alaska. 1944
- 6 Lt. Robertson. Alaska 1944
- 7 Lt. Robertson. 1945
- 8 Lt. Robertson 1945
- 9 Lt. Robertson 1945
- 10 Lts. Thompson & Sims. 1945
- 11 Lt. Robertson 1945 [next to sign with mileage to various destinations]
- 12 Lt. Thompson & Sims 1945 [next to sign with mileage to various destinations]
- 13 Lt. Robertson & Sims. 1945
- 14 Lt. Robertson at "Home". 1945 [laying on his bunk]
- 15 Lt. Robertson
- 16 Lt. Sims & Butch [cat]
- 17 Susitna (Sleeping Lady).
- 18 Alaska RR. Sta. Mt. McKinley.
- 19/20 Anchorage, Alaska.
- 21/22 Road to ski run. Ft. Richardson.
- 23-28 View from ski run road.
- 29/30 Road to ski run.
- 31 Ski run from road.
- 32 Valley at ski run.
- 33 Mountain at ski run.
- 34 Ski run

- 35 Ski run. Best way to stop.
- 36 Ski run
- 37 Lt. Sims on skis.
- 38 Lt. Robertson on skis
- 39 Group of skiing enthusiasts.
- 40 Louise Anders. Cir (sp?) Nurse.
- 41 Post Theatre. (AnSCO)
- 42 Post Theatre. (Kodachrome)
- 43/44 Bowling Alley, Gym & Service Club.
- 45 Post exchange
- 46 Parade ground
- 47 Post Dispensary
- 48 Post Street (see also #1 & 2)
- 49 Post Chapel
- 50 Officer's Club
- 51 Road to 183rd Sta. Hosp.
- 52 Road to Green Lake
- 53 C-54. Elmendorf Field.
- 54 Post Exchange
- 55 Lt. Potts & Thompson 1945
- 56 Lts. Potts, Thompson & Robertson 1945
- 57/58 Lt. Robertson 1945

- 59 "Midnite Sun"
- 60 Longest Nite of Year 1945
- 61/62 Capt. Robertson
- 63/64 Brush fire at Ft. Richardson
- 65 Officers & Nurses, 183rd S. H.
- 66 Moonrise
- 67 Old Glory.
- 68-72 Retreat parade.
- 73-76 Wild flowers.
- 77 Lupen.
- 78 Wild Rose.
- 79 Field of "Fireweed".
- 80-83 Sunset
- 84-85 Mountains in setting sun.
- 86-93 Sunset
- 94 Sunset over Cook Inlet.
- 95 Sunset over Susitna.
- 96 Sunset over Mt. McKinley
- 97-99 Sunset at Lake Spenard.
- 100 Chow time on fishing trip.
- 101 Start of fishing trip.

102/103 Ship Creek.

104 Fort bridge over Ship Cr.

105-109 Ship Creek

110 First snow, Aug. '45.

111 Snow on Mts. 1945 (later).

112 Snow on Mts. still later.

113 Galena, Alaska.

114/115 Cemetary. Galena

116 Galena, Alaska. Fall.

117 Galena, Alaska. Winter.

118/119 Yukon River

120/121 Galena, Alaska.

122-124 Yukon River

125 Huskie dog

126 Levee. Galena.

127-130 Galena.

131 Post at Galena.

132/133 Dispensary. Galena.

134 Theatre. Galena.

135 Hangar.

136 Fire Station. Galena.

137 Med. Det.

- 138 Capt. Robertson. Galena.
- 139/140 Capt. Robertson's Qtrs.
- 141 Ladd Field. Fairbanks.
- 142/143 Frozen Yukon River
- 144 Galena from air.
- 145 Dog team & sled.
- 146/147 183rd Sta. Hosp. Sign.
- 148 Sta. Hosp. Summer.
- 149 Sta. Hosp. Winter.
- 150 Officer's Club. Summer.
- 151 Officer's Club. Winter
- 152/153 Scene on Post. Ft. Richardson.
- 154 Christmas Tree - 183rd S.H. 1945.
- 155 Santa Claus - 183rd S.H. 1945.
- 156-165 Winter Scene.
- 166 Susitna.
- 167-169 Hoar Frost on Trees.
- 170 Road in winter.
- 171 Lean-to.
- 172 Winter scene.
- 173 Same in Summer.

- 174 Winter scene.
- 175 Same in Summer
- 176 Winter scene
- 177 Same in Summer
- 178 Road on Ft. Richardson
- 179 Scene on Ft. Richardson
- 180 Susitna
- 181 Mt. at Ft. Richardson.
- 182 Road near Ft. Richardson
- 183 Lake on Ft. Richardson
- 184 Capt. Robertson swims.
- 185 Green Lake.
- 186 Airplane.
- 187 Airplane take-off
- 188 Cook Inlet & Susitna
- 189 Turnagain Arm
- 190/191 Lake from air
- 192-193 Scene from air
- 194-197 Anchorage from air.
- 198/199 Anchorage, Alaska.
- 200 Church in Anchorage.
- 201 515 Club, Anchorage.

202/203 Anchorage, Alaska.

204 Home in Anchorage

205-207 Flowers in Anchorage

208 Field of flowers in Anchorage

209 Capt. Robertson, 1945

210 Fourth Street, Anchorage.

211-213 Cook Inlet

214 Knick Arm

215 Susitna across Cook Inlet

216/217 Cook Inlet

218 Across Cook Inlet

219 Knik Arm, high tide

220 Knik Arm, low tide

221 Idle Hour Club, L. Spenard.

222 Totem pole, Lake Spenard.

Folder 2 - Alaska Scenes (#223-340)

223 Lake Spenard.

224 C-47 instrument panel.

225 Cold Bay, Alaska

226 Old Frosty Peak, Cold Bay.

227-229 Cold Bay

- 230 Leaving Cold Bay
- 231 Cold Bay & Old Frosty
- 232 Mts. near Cold Bay
- 233 Leaving Cold Bay
- 234-246 Coast of Alaska Penin.
- 247-250 Parlor Volcano.
- 251/252 On board ship onway to Unga.
- 253 Unga, Alaska.
- 254 Schoolhouse, Unga.
- 255 Chasing Diphtheria, Unga.
- 256-258 Shumagin Islands.
- 259/260 Bay at Unga.
- 261 Tundra at Unga
- 262-263 Bay at Unga
- 264 Elephant Rock, Unga.
- 265 Hosts at Unga
- 266 Spaghetti dinner, Unga
- 267 Fishing village.
- 268 Island off Alaskan coast.
- 269/270 Afognak Island
- 271 Kodiak, Alaska
- 272 Southern Alaska coast.

- 273 Eagle River
- 274 Southern Alaska Coast
- 275 Eagle River
- 276 Along Glen Allen Hiway.
- 277 Glen Allen Hiway.
- 278 Lake on Glen Allen Hiway.
- 279/280 Matanuska River
- 281 Knik River
- 282 Near Sheepshead Mt.
- 283 Matanuska Glacier
- 284 Capt. Robertson & glacier
- 285-290 Matanuska Glacier.
- 291-292 Stream on Allen Hiway.
- 293 Stream jct. & Matanuska R.
- 294/295 Matanuska River
- 296-300 Chugach Mts.
- 301 Lake on Allen Hiway.
- 302 Roadhouse on Allen Hiway.
- 303 Moose in lake.
- 304 Santa Claus Lodge.
- 305 Gulkana, Alaska.

- 306 Trading Post, Gulkana, Alaska
- 307 Mountains near Gulkana
- 308 Sunset-sunrise (1:30 a.m.)
- 309 Early transportation [wooden wagon]
- 310 Susitna from Palmer Rd.
- 311 Lake on Palmer Rd.
- 312/314 Alaska Range
- 315 Knik Arm
- 316 Scene on Palmer Road.
- 317 Along Palmer Road.
- 318 Eklutna Flats.
- 319 Water reservoir
- 320/321 Mountain in Chugach Range
- 322-324 Scene in Chugach Mts.
- 325 Camp fire.
- 326/327 Mountain.
- 328 Lake in Reservation
- 329 Mountain in Reservation
- 330-331 Scene at Lake in Reservation
- 332 Lake in Reservation
- 333 Sunset on mountain
- 334-338 Turnagain Arm

339/340 Street scene. Juneau

Folder 3 – S. S. Yukon wreck and rescue

35 black and white photographs of the wreck, rescue and medical crew

Descriptive notes provided by Dr. Frank Robertson

Numbers in parenthesis were provided by Dr. Robertson and are on back of photograph

341 1st view of wreck. Arrow points to *Yukon*. (1)

342-344 1st view of wreck. Arrow points to *Yukon*. (2)

345-346 Wreck with power barge. A breeches buoy has been rigged between *Yukon* and power barge to remove survivors. (3)

347-349 Air Force dropping life rafts (4)

350 Rugged shore line (5)

351 Army powered barge (6)

352-354 Other boats that helped in rescue (7)

355 Lt. Wright, RN, at scene. She later went to the beach to help survivors there. (8)

356 Coast Guard at wreck. (9)

357 Bringing survivors to USS *Curb* where I was. (10)

358 USS *Curb* docked at Seward (11)

359-361 S.S. *Yukon* after all had been removed. We had a heavy snow during the last night. (12)

362 The doctors & nurses who took part in the rescue. Some stayed at Seward and prepared to take over when we brought the survivors in. (13)

363 Lt. Wright receiving letter of commendation from Brig. Gen. Johnson. (14)

364 Me – Capt. Robertson doing same. (15)

365-368 Doctors in rescue mission receiving same. (16)

369-374 Unnumbered pictures are more or less duplicates (17)

Letter written by Dr. Robertson describing the *S.S. Yukon* wreck site and taking the injured survivors to Ft. Richardson Station Hospital (2 pages, laminated)

Newspaper accounts of the wreck (12 pages, photocopied)

Issues (2) and clipping concerning wreck

Issue (1) of the Army newspaper North Star (November 5, 1945), includes Aldiv Picture Supplement