

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Oswalt, Wendell H.

Wendell H. Oswalt Photograph Collection, Western Alaska;
1940s-1980s

PCA 550

6 folders
201 color slides

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, June 2012
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Sept. 2012

ACQUISITION: Wendell Oswalt contacted the Alaska State Library Historical Collections in May 2012 intending to donate slides of his fieldwork. The slides are to arrive in batches. The first batch arrived June 8, 2012. Accession number # 2012-011.

ACCESS: Access to the collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: The slides were housed in archival sleeves. Inventory notes provided by donor unless in brackets.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wendell H. Oswalt received a Ph.D. from University of Arizona in 1959. He is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at University of California, Los Angeles, where he taught for thirty-two years. His research has examined Native American cultures, with particular attention to the Yupik-speaking people in Southwestern Alaska and Inuit-speaking people in Northern Alaska and Canada. In particular, he has conducted archeological fieldwork in the Kotzebue-Kobuk River area (1947), the Bering Sea Coast and St. Lawrence Island ((1948), the Hooper Bay region (1950), at Katmai National Monument ((1954), and later at Kolmakovski Redoubt along the Kuskokwim River (1966-67). He also conducted research regarding Erik the Red in Iceland. Dr. Oswalt has written on a number of topics, such as Eskimo pre-history, a community study of Western Native Alaskans, and a study of Moravian missions in Alaska. Most recently, he wrote an article entitled: "Maturing Human Minds and Early Subsistan Technoevolution: A Synopsis" (2012). Several of his publications are housed in the Alaska State Library Historical Collections.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

201 color slides from 30 years of archaeological work in western Alaska, the Kuskokwim River Region, and Iceland. From Wendell Oswalt's notes about particular slides:

"The North Star was a small wooden B.I.A. vessel that played an important role in early South Pole explorations. They assembled an airplane on board to make the first flight over the South Pole. There are numerous published accounts about the flight." (No.118-119)

"I made four trips to Iceland (a wonderful place) to learn about Eric the Red and his son – important in northeastern North American discoveries."

---Wendell Oswalt, 8/14/2012. (No.177-192)

INVENTORY

Folder 1

Kuskokwim Historical

- 1 "Old" McGrath, Kusko
- 2 Little Man's boy
- 3 McGrath, Lumber trip[?]
- 4 Napamuit [Napaimute]
- 5 McGrath
- 6 McGrath, Original N.C. Store [Alaska Commercial Company]

- 7 Shirley Nelson
- 8 CETA farmers; Shirley Nelson below Crooked
- 9 Sleetmute, Aug. 1981
- 10 Old McGrath; Steamboat, Kuskokwim
- 11 Crooked Cr, Lower Village, Kusko
- 12 McGrath, Original N.C. Store [Alaska Commercial Company]
- 13 McGrath
- 14 "Old Chief" & Caribou's brother Shorty. 1953 Napamiut[Napaimute]
- 15 McGrath, original N.C. Store [Alaska Commercial Company]
- 16 McGrath; "Doyen" bldg.
- 17 Johny[?] Avukumoff[?] Camp, Kuskokwim
- 18 Georgetown, Kuskokwim
- 19 McGrath; Roadhouse 3
- 20 McGrath
- 21 Gregory homesite; USGS "Vinasale", Kuskokwim [1973]

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- 22 McGrath, Kuskokwim, Main St.
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- 24 Trador, Stony R. Village, Kuskokwim, Reginal M. White
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- 34 McGrath, Margaret Mespelt
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- 36 Kuskokwim near Vinasale
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Folder 1Kuskokwim Historical

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80 Crow Village Excavations, Kuskokwim

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86 Aniak, School

87 Aniak, Independent N.C. Store

88 Aniak, Bath

89 Aniak, [Unloading black barrels from barge on to truck at water's edge]

90 Aniak, [Wooden building with oil cans]

91 Aniak, Bath

92 Aniak, First N.C. Store

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