Biographical Note

Alexander Malcolm Smith was born Jan. 1, 1858 in Inverness, Scotland. At the age of sixteen he served an apprenticeship with the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada for three years. His personal adventures and exploration in the North made his knowledge of Alaska and Canada of value to many seeking his services. He made gold strikes in the Klondike and Nome, built several roadhouses, discovered oil seepages that are now the United States Naval Oil Reserve. He was second in command for the Wilkins Arctic Expedition of 1926-1927, made mineral discoveries in Siberia, and was honored by many groups; Royal Geographical Society, American Geographical Society, and Explorer's Club.

Scope and Contents Note

The Library file includes photocopies of the scrapbook of Alexander Malcolm Smith, loaned by his wife, Ann (now King) of Seattle, and his son Malcolm Alexander.

Photos form a different collection, PCA 136.
## INVENTORY

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and oil discoveries; Smith's personal comments flowing through the article.

Photographs: Smith on "ski boat"; "Sourdough" party at Arctic oil field; blanket toss; schooner "Silver Wave" used for race to Arctic oil fields.


Article on Smith's involvement with the Wilkins Expedition.


"Famed Sourdough is Visitor Here." Newspaper article describing Smith's plans for a tour of the U.S. and Mexico, including biographical material.

Photos: Smith, wife Elizabeth and son Malcolm; Smiths in front of helicopter

"Commander of Polar Expedition... Success of Exhibition Plans." News Digest circa 1926. Article about Capt. George Wilkins' planned Detroit arctic Exhibition and Smith's involvement.

"Lost Arctic Continent," February 1, 1926. Newspaper account of Smith and Capt. Wilkins' Arctic Expedition; describes the route and transportation of supplies.

"Iron Caravan Resumes Trek" Feb. 13, 1926. Newspaper article commenting on the expedition's use of "snow motors" for transporting supplies

"Advance Guard of Pole Party on Way Inside". Anchorage Daily Times, Jan. 25, 1926. Article reports on Smith and the advance guards plans with the Wilkins Arctic Expedition


Lanan, Bella. "The Strange Case near the Top of the World". Newspaper

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article and cartoon depicting an event that ended up in the courts.

Pickering, Loring, "Wilkins to Get Flying Start in Race to Arctic". Newspaper account of Wilkins Arctic Expedition; biographical material on Smith.

"Sandy Smith, Celebrated Explorer and Yukon Guide, is Guest in Green Bay." Newspaper account of Smith's exploits in Alaska and Russia.

Photograph: Sandy using his "sail skis" in the Arctic.

Earp, Frederick Lewis, "Wilkins Polar Base Moves to Barrow Today." Newspaper accounts of Wilkins' flight from Barrow and subsequent disappearance; Smith's sled dogs "Slim" and "Red"; Smith's collection recollections of time spent in a Russian prison; and humorous account of mistaken identity, ca. 1926.

"Arctic Flyers Fail, Mushers Face Death", Los Angeles Evening News, 1926, Accounts of Smith, mushers, and dogs facing possible starvation during overland trip for Wilkins Arctic Expedition, and emergency flight to supply food.

"The Fighting Men on the Tanana". Article describing the route of the Detroit Arctic Expedition and the problems they will encounter.

"Sausalito Man Fails in Arctic Snow Motor Expedition". Newspaper account of Smith's failure to haul supplies for Wilkins to Pt. Barrow.

"Aviator 'Sees' Through Fog by New Device". Newspaper account describing Wilkins' use of new scientific instruments such as gyroscope, air speed indicator, etc. to solve problems of navigating near Pole.


Earp, Frederick Lewis, "2nd Plane Joins Hunt for Wilkins". Newspaper account of the "missing" Wilkins Arctic Expedition, and speculations by Viljalmur Stefansson.

"Sandy Smith Sees Friends at Purgatory", ca. 1926. Article about Smith's trip to Purgatory, Alaska as candidate for Territorial Auditor.


Boyes, Kathleen. "Our Arctic Heritage". Poem predicting tourist influx as result of Wilkins' expedition.

Photographs: "Major Lanphier to Fly Over Pole with Wilkins"; "Planes and Advance Party", and Smith mapping airplane route.

O'Cotter, Pat. "That North Pole Trip", 1927. Article criticizing Wilkins, and
Detroit Arctic Expedition, and others attempts at climbing Mt. McKinley. 46

Photograph: Smith and Edmundro Chamarro on the ship Columbia, 1927. 46

"Lost Arctic Continent - Ex-Aberdeen F.C. Player", Jan. 1, 1926. Newspaper account of Smith's involvement with the Wilkins Arctic Expedition. 47

Waldron, Malcolm T. "Soviet Terror Reign Told by 'Sandy' Smith", March 14, 1929. Newspaper account of Smith's experiences in Okhotsk, Russia. 47-48

"This Enchanted Isle", New York Evening Post, Jan. 16, 1926. Biographical material on Smith's adventures, discoveries, and his reminiscences. 48

"The First Yukon Jury". Newspaper account describing early cases of the Grand Jury in Circle City, Yukon Territory. 48

"Sandy Smith to Talk Before P.T.A. Tuesday", Daily Alaska Empire. Newspaper account of Smith's lecture on his adventures, including movie roles.

Photographs: Smith's two sled dogs and footprint of "Baldy of Nome". 49

Correspondence: Jan. 9, 1926, R. Kersting, Secretary of Explorers Club to Smith thanking him for his gift of a Mammoth tusk and molar. 49

Award from the Council of the American Geographical Society certifying Smith as a "Fellow", Nov. 21, 1933. 50

"Nautical Hits and Misses", SS Haleakala Radio News, July 20, 1934. Reporting Smith as a passenger, dancing the Highland Fling, and with brief comments on Pullen House and Skagway. 51

Jamison, H.E., "Along the Waterfront-Real Sourdough", Seattle Star, Aug. 17, 1936 Narrative on Jamison's visit to Juneau, Alaska and subsequent meeting with Smith, including biographic material. 52

"Old Time Prospector Prepares to Hit Klondike Trail at 81", ca. 1940. Biographic material on Smith; his experiences in Russia; and the sighting of Amundsen's dirigible. 53

Photographs: Cast and crew of movie "Big Game", starring May Allison; Alfred Brooks party on "Conenaught"; two beach scenes; caricature of Smith; crew of Fokker on Wilkins expedition of 1926; and unknown gold diggings. 54-57

Correspondence: R. Halpin, American Historical Co., Inc., Publishers, to Smith informing him of biographical material in the "Encyclopedia of Northwest Biography", June 6, 1940; letter from Charles E. Bunnell, U. of A., to Smith, thanking him for information on Col. Alfred H. Brooks; comments on other pioneers; letter from Jas. G. Steese, Royal Interocean Lines, to Miss Cummings, informing her that he had missed Smith, and various comments on his activities. 58-60

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"The Higher Latitudes are Healthy", The Higher Latitudes-Newsletter, Dec. 1, 1955. Brief account of Smith's amazing vitality at 96; "tall tales"; various paragraphs on life and people in the North, and hunting tips.


"Sandy Smith Not Talking", Jessens Weekly, 1955. Account of interview with Smith upon his return from three and one half months in the Arctic and Illustration of Naval Petroleum Reserve # 4, discovered by Smith.

"Sandy Smith, 96, Sourdough Won't Quit, Hits Trail Again", *The Daily Alaska Empire*, ca. 1953. Biographical material blended with anecdotes by Smith on experiences in the Arctic, Siberia, and dog mushing.

Vera, Dorothy H., "Sandy Smith a 'Young' Sourdough at 97", Aug. 27, 1955. Newspaper account of Smith's experiences, including discovery of oil and "Mountain of Jade"; first ski club in Juneau, Alaska; first Grand Jury member; and his plans to write a book.

Hughes, Doris, "Alaska Explorer Visits in Area". Biographical material on Smith from Salinas, Cal. newspaper, including his knowledge of an "island stacked high with ivory, walrus tusks, copper nuggets, and a 'mountain of jade'"

Donaldson, Cy, "Arctic Adventurer- Fabled Life Led by 96 Year Old Visitor", *Chico Enterprise Record*, May 28, 1956. Account of Smith's discoveries; involvement with Wilkins Expedition; prospecting; and additional biographical material.


"Alaska Pioneer Visiting Here", Torrance Herald (Cal.) Jan. 6, 1957. Newspaper account of Smith's visit with Tom Watson; and biographical material.

Photographs: "Old Klondike Days", Smith and friend Tom Watson, and Passport photo of Smith.