

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Nashoalook, Alva

Diary of Alva Nashoalook, Icy Cape, Alaska, 1912 - 1913

MS 4-37-2

Notebook: 32 pages

Processed By: James Simard

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated by Margaret Emrey to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and accessioned on April 7, 2008. Technical Sergeant Earl B. Emrey, Jr. found the diary in an abandoned structure. Accession #2008-009.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

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

PROCESSING: Boxed and housed in mylar enclosure. Note: item is extremely fragile.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Earl B. Emrey, Jr. was born in Louisiana and grew up in various communities throughout the Southeastern United States. He attended Georgia Tech. He enlisted in the US Army in April 1941, and was assigned to the 7th Army Air Force Geodetic Control Squadron as a Technical Sergeant. His military occupational specialty was "Surveyor Topographic" and his assignments included a tour of duty in Mexico, and two winters in Alaska.

After being discharged from the military in 1945, Earl Emrey returned home to Georgia. He was employed as an engineer by Southern Bell Telephone Company throughout most of his career. He married Nell Abbott in 1957 and they had 2 daughters.

His primary responsibility in Alaska involved performing surveys for the purpose of mapping the region. The work had to be carried out in the winter time in order to use stars to plot locations. He spent time above the Arctic Circle, experiencing sub-zero temperatures and often traveling by dog sled and small plane. He once had to spend the night sleeping on a frozen lake after a forced emergency landing. He always enjoyed telling family and friends about his adventures as a young man in Alaska.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The notebook is a diary of a young Inupiat school girl named Alva Nashoalook, who relates events in her daily life in Icy Cape. The dates given are June [27], 1912 through April 1, 1913. Subjects include walrus and seal hunting, trapping, reindeer, and other subsistence activities. There is also mention of family life, living conditions, weather and climactic conditions, children's play and home craft such as knitting.

Technical Sergeant Earl B. Emrey, Jr. found the diary in an abandoned structure.

Folder 1 of 1

Diary Alva Nashoalook Icy Cape Alaska