

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

American Legion

Designs Submitted by School Children for Alaska's Flag, 1927

MS 14-1

130 drawings in ten boxes
36 color slides

Processed by: Kay Shelton, Feb. 2002
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Sept. 2014

ACQUISITION: The Alaska Territorial Historical Library and Museum received this collection after the contest in 1927.

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, but photocopies are not allowed.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: In 2001, the drawings were re-matted and re-housed under the direction of Alaska State Museum conservator Scott Carroll. Tape that had covered the contest entrants' name on the verso of the drawing was removed. An inventory of entrants' names was then compiled.

HISTORICAL NOTE

At the request of Governor George A. Parks, the Alaska Chapter of the American Legion conducted a contest among the Territory's school children to choose Alaska's Flag Design. Benny Benson, a thirteen-year-old who lived in the Jesse Lee Home in Seward, submitted the winning design of the constellation Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper, set against a field of blue. The design was adopted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1927.

In 2002, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its adoption, the contest entries and Benny's winning design (now separated from the Library's collection and housed in the Alaska State Museum) were featured in the Museum's exhibit: *Eight Stars of Gold: the Story of Alaska's Flag*. The exhibit catalog of the same name by guest curator, India M. Spartz, details Benny Benson's life, the Jesse Lee Home, the American Legion contest, the origin of the state song, and its relevance to Alaska's search for statehood.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection consists of the entries and color slides of 36 entries created in 2002 for the Museum exhibit. The entries at one time numbered 142. Of those, 11 are missing and one (Benny's winning design) is now housed separately in the Alaska State Museum. The collection is arranged by number of entry, presumably assigned by the American Legion judges. In 2001, tape that had covered the names of students who entered the contest was removed.

The following inventory lists the location, the physical measurement of each entry, the student's name and town and whether a slide of the entry is in the collection. The slides are housed in Box 1. Each item's full number includes the MS # followed by the Box # and then the entry number. Example: The drawing by Charles Lange, from Seward, is number 14-1-2-17.

INVENTORY

Box Number	Entry Number	I.D./Comments	Slide Size
Box 1	1-1	Benny Benson's winning entry (copy)	✓ Original at Museum
	1a	Solveig Vick, Petersburg	8 1/2 x 11
	2	Irene Runstad	12 x 8 15/16
	3	Oscar Sandvik, Petersburg	✓ 11 1/8 x 8 1/2
	4	Henrietta Dahl, Petersburg	10 7/8 x 8 7/16
	5	Thelma Arness, Petersburg	11 x 8 1/2
	6	Thelma Arness, Petersburg	11 x 8 1/2
	7	Marian Kildall, Petersburg	11 1/16 x 8 3/8
	8	Thelma Arness, Petersburg	11 1/6 x 8 1/16
	9	Richard Harris, Petersburg	12 1/16 x 8 1/16
	10	Marie Wikan, Petersburg	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	11	Charlie Nelson, Seward	12 x 9
	12	J. W. Hatten, Seward	✓ 12 x 9 1/16
	13	Minnie May Anderson, Seward	12 x 9 1/16
	14	Charles Lange, Seward	12 x 9 1/16
15	Caroline Nielsen, Seward	12 x 9 1/16	
Box 2	16	Eva Gladys Olaowsine, Seward	12 x 9 1/16
	17	Charles Lange, Seward	✓ 12 x 9 1/16
	18	Eva Gladys Olaowsine, Seward	✓ 12 x 9 1/16
	19	Benny Benson, Seward	✓ 12 x 9 1/16
	20	Benny Benson, Seward	✓ 12 x 8 13/16
	21	unknown	12 1/16 x 9 1/16
	22	Agnes Anderson, Seward	10 15/16 x 8 1/2
	23	Cecil Leslie, Seward	12 1/8 x 9
	24	Virginia DeHart, Seward	12 1/4 x 9
	25	Ernestine Jessen, Seward	11 15/16 x 8 15/16
	26	Otto Sandbek, Seward	✓ 12 1/4 x 8 15/16
	27	Wilma Harrison, Seward	12 3/16 x 9
	28	Wilma Harrison, Seward	12 3/16 x 9
	29	Pearl Fairman, Seward	12 3/16 x 9
	30		Missing
Box 3	31	Clancy Leighton Henrikson, Seward	11 13/16 x 8 15/16
	32	George Danner, Jr. (Bear)	✓ 11 x 8 9/16
	33	unknown	10 15/16 x 8 7/16
	34	unknown	11 x 8 1/2
	35	unknown	11 1/16 x 8 1/2
	36	unknown	10 7/8 x 8
	37	unknown	11 1/16 x 8 1/2
	38	unknown	11 1/16 x 8 1/16
	39	unknown	11 x 8 9/16
	40	unknown	11 x 8 1/2
	41	unknown	11 x 8 9/16
	42	Natalie Kashevaroff, Juneau	✓ 11 x 8 9/16
	43	M. Judson Whittier, Juneau	10 7/8 x 8 7/16
	44	M. Judson Whittier, Juneau	10 15/16 x 8 7/16
	45		Missing
Box 4	46		Missing
	47		Missing
	48	Harriet Anderson, Ketchikan	12 1/8 x 9

Box Number	Entry Number	I.D./Comments	Slide Size
Box 4 (con't)	49	Eugene Wacker, Ketchikan	11 x 8 1/2
	50	Regina Lindholm, Haines	✓ 12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	51	Helen Hyde, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	52	George Moore, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	53	Mary Johnson, Haines	12 x 8 15/16
	54	Elisabeth Anne Sheldon, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	55	Roy Clayton, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	56	Elizabeth Anne Sheldon, Haines	✓ 12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	57	Alice Bromley, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	58	David Morris, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
	59	Daniel Morris, Haines	12 1/16 x 8 15/16
60	Ross Fox, Douglas	12 1/16 x 8 15/16	
Box 5	61	Walter A. Savikko, Douglas	✓ 12 x 9 7/8
	62	unknown	✓ 12 1/16 x 9 13/16
	63	Bernice Edwards, Douglas	11 7/16 x 8
	64	Victor Hanlon, Sitka	11 15/16 x 8 15/16
	65	Raymond G. Burke, Sitka	11 9/16 x 8 7/16
	66	Florence Peterson, Sitka	✓ 11 15/16 x 8 7/8
	67	Robert Niel DeArmond, Sitka	✓ 10 15/16 x 8 1/2
	68	Esther Jennings, Sitka	11 15/16 x 8 15/16
	69	Charlotte Burkhart, Sitka	11 15/16 x 8 15/16
	70	Robert N. Rogers, Jr., Sitka	11 1/2 x 8 7/16
	71	Robert N. Rogers, Jr., Sitka	11 1/2 x 8 1/2
	72	Frances L. Meals, Valdez	✓ 12 1/16 x 9
	73		Missing
	74	Louise Meals, Valdez	✓ 12 x 9
	75	Mabel Cook, Valdez	12 x 8 15/16
Box 6	76	Beauford Clifton	✓ 12 x 8 15/16
	77	Chester Arthur Clifton, Valdez	12 x 9
	78		Missing
	79		Missing
	80		Missing
	81		Missing
	82	Minnie M. Stensland, Ketchikan	✓ 10 13/16 x 8 7/16
	83	Edward Stackpole, Ketchikan	11 1/16 x 8 1/2
	84	Pauline Sanders, Ketchikan	11 x 8 9/16
	85	Walter Brice, Ketchikan	11 x 8 9/16
	86	Masako Nagashima, Ketchikan	✓ 11 x 8 9/16
	87	Helen Nelson, Ketchikan	✓ 10 15/16 x 8 7/16
	88		Missing
	89	Myrtle D. Wacker	✓ 10 15/16 x 8 7/16
90	Yvonne Aikens, Ketchikan	✓ 10 15/16 x 8 7/16	
Box 7	91	Inga L. Hanson, Ketchikan	11 3/16 x 8 1/2
	92	Fred Kubon, Fairbanks	12 9/16 x 9 1/16
	93	Ben McFarland, Fairbanks	12 x 8 15/16
	94	Charles Preston, Fairbanks	11 x 8 9/16
	95	Fred Kubon, Fairbanks	12 x 9 1/16
	96	Kathleen Newton, Fairbanks	11 7/8 x 9 1/8
	97	Walter Kubon, Fairbanks	12 x 9 1/16
	98	William Burns, Fairbanks	12 x 8 7/8
	99	Walter Kubon, Fairbanks	12 x 9 1/16

Box Number	Entry Number	I.D./Comments	Slide Size	
Box 7 (con't)	100	Ben McFarland, Fairbanks	12 1/16 x 8 15/16	
	101	Paul Solka, Jr., Fairbanks	✓ 12 9/16 x 9 5/16	
	102	Jim Cavanaugh, Anchorage	✓ 12 1/16 x 9	
	103	Ingeborg Puckart, Anchorage	✓ 11 x 8 7/16	
	104	Gwendolyn Cannon, Anchorage	11 15/16 x 9 9/16	
	105	Ellen M. Davies, Anchorage	12 1/16 x 9 1/16	
Box 8	106	Steve McCutcheon, Anchorage	✓ 11 x 8 1/2	
	107	Caroline David, Anchorage	12 x 9	
	108	Ellen Davies, Anchorage	12 1/16 x 9 1/16	
	109	Thomas Ek, Anchorage	12 1/16 x 9	
	110	Ellen Davies, Anchorage	12 x 9 1/16	
	111	Janet Borges, Anchorage	12 1/16 x 9	
	112	Edward Haltness, Cordova	12 x 9 1/16	
	113	Millicent Clemence, Cordova	12 x 9 1/16	
	114	Jane Scott? Cordova	12 1/16 x 9	
	115	Mike O'Neill, Cordova	12 1/16 x 9	
	116	Richard Davis, Cordova	12 1/16 x 9 3/16	
	117	Philip J. O'Neill, Cordova	✓ 12 x 9 3/16	
	118	Gretchen DeLeo, Cordova	12 1/16 x 9 1/16	
	119	Eleanor Hoover, Cordova	12 x 9 1/16	
120	Betty Scheffler, Cordova	12 x 9 1/16		
Box 9	121	Philip Lydick, Cordova	12 x 9 3/16	
	122	Adah Osborne, Matanuska	✓ 11 x 8 1/2	
	123	Raymond Wheeler, Wrangell	12 x 8 15/16	
	124	Raymond Wheeler, Wrangell	✓ 12 x 8 15/16	
	125	Raymond Wheeler, Wrangell	12 x 8 15/16	
	126	Raymond Wheeler, Wrangell	✓ 12 x 8 15/16	
	127		Missing	
	128	Carl Jensen, Wrangell	12 x 8 7/8	
	129	James B. Waters, Wrangell	12 x 8 15/16	
	130	Virginia Tozier, Wrangell	11 15/16 x 8 15/16	
	131	Wilfred S. Gent, Wrangell	✓ 12 x 8 15/16	
	132	Donald Richfield, Wrangell	12 x 8 15/16	
	133	Madeleine Calkins	✓ 12 13/16 x 10 1/4	
	134	Frances Ross, Nome	11 15/16 x 8 15/16	
	135	Frances Ross, Nome	✓ 11 15/16 x 8 15/16	
	Box 10	136	Carra Catherine Harlan, Nome	10 7/8 x 8 3/8
		137	Carra Catherine Harlan, Nome	10 7/8 x 8 3/8
138		Lucille Gabriel, Nome	11 15/16 x 9 9/16	
139		Wilfrid Neily, Nome	7 13/16 x 5	
140		Grace Swanberg, Nome (linen)	9 5/16 x 8	
141		Eva Nicola, Nome	11 15/16 x 8 13/16	
142		Mary Walsh, Nome	✓ 11 15/16 x 9	