

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Dahlstrom, Maynard C.

Maynard C. Dahlstrom Collection, ca. 1945-1977

MS 179

2 boxes
1.3 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
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ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Maynard Dahlstrom's family, Patricia Loehlein, Mary Ellen Ross, Charles and Norman Dahlstrom, in August 2000 (Acc. no. 2000-50).

ACCESS: The collection is 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: Any perceived original order was retained. Most of the papers were arranged by series and by type, e.g., journals, correspondence, by library staff.

Biographical Note

Maynard Chester Dahlstrom was born in Red Wing MN on Christmas Day 1920. His parents, Charles and Margaret were prevented from getting to the hospital by a blizzard. His mother died when he was 12 and his father remarried several years later. He graduated from Central High School in Minneapolis, ca. 1937 and served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) until he was 21. The CCC provided training in photography and mechanics. He was a mechanic for Northwest Airlines when World War II began.

Maynard Dahlstrom was classified 4-F by his draft board but he wanted to support the war effort. The U.S. Army Air Force offered him the opportunity to serve as a civilian aircraft mechanic in either Alaska or Hawaii. He chose Alaska and was sent to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, ca. 1942. He stayed in this position for about 30 years and lived in the Anchorage area until the 1970s.

Dahlstrom's great interest was photography. He was a member of the Alaskan Trails Club, a hiking and photography group. He took photos of everything in his world including World War II vintage aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base, street scenes, wildlife and flowers and outdoor scenics. Images of McKinley Park and other interior locations were taken while on excursions with the Alaskan Trails Club of which he was a charter member. He gave slide shows around the Anchorage area with other members of the club and also for the Alaskan Prospectors Society. He told friends of a whale-walrus-seal hunt on the Bering Sea. The trip was particularly memorable because a defector stole a boat from their hunting party and crossed to Russia. He also attended an oil painting class at Anchorage Community College.

Maynard Dahlstrom took early retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 and soon thereafter moved back to Red Wing MN. He was a member of the Red Wing Camera Club. In his later years he regaled friends and acquaintances with stories and slide shows of his adventures in Alaska. He died June 2000 in Red Wing.

Scope and Contents Note

Maynard Dahlstrom's collection is a reflection of his life in Alaska from the mid-1940s to the late 1970s. The papers are grouped in three series: his work as a civilian at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the trips he took with the photography clubs - Alaskan Trails Club, Alaskan Prospectors Society and his personal life including family, friends, and the details of constructing his house in Spenard. The collection includes employment papers, such as an induction notice, certificates, awards, work orders, engineer logs, trip logs, daily journals, slide and photo indexes, memorabilia from trips, house construction logs, catalogs, a few sample receipts and publications.

INVENTORY

BOX 1

Military and related employment:

Folder 1	Employment papers: induction notice, Northwest Airlines employee information, suggestions for incentive awards, Arctic clothing issue receipt
Folder 2	Certificates, awards, letters of appreciation
Folder 3	Correspondence, memos
Folder 4	Work orders, personnel actions - samples
Folder 5	Engineer logs, 1952-1953
Folder 6	Employment applications, 1945, 1957
Folder 7	Name lists
Folder 8	Clippings

Folder 9 Newsletters/publications: Freeman Daily News, Civilian News Letter, Fanfare (Radiant Mfg. Corp., Chicago), Passengers Information Guide, Station 19, ATC, Hospitalized Patient's Guide (USAF Hospital, Elmendorf AFB)

Photography club trips:

Folder 10 Slide/film indexes, trip logs - some from *Milepost*, 1951-1959, 1974-1977

Folder 11 Walrus hunt, June 1953: journals, clippings, receipt, itinerary; includes story of Cecil A. Stoner who defected to Russia

Folder 12 Camera settings, trip logs: 1946, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, trip ideas

Folder 13 Licenses, member cards, business cards; catalogs, receipts (samples)

Folder 14 Constitutions: Alaskan Trails Club (partial), Alaskan Prospectors Society (Fort Richardson) post card, badges, clippings, memorabilia

Folder 15 Publications: Mileposts: 1954, 1959, 1962, 1965; maps

Personal life

Folder 16 Memorabilia: voting certificates, Grasse Materials Co. Christmas card, Alaska Thunderbird seal, Speak Up Alaska! (pipeline promotion)

Folder 17 Personal correspondence and papers (report cards, 1935); list of all correspondence, including non-retained, compiled by Larry Hibpshman, in Master File

Folder 18 Address book, notes on will, designation of beneficiary

Folder 19 Daily journals, 1951, 1952, 1953

BOX 2

Personal life (cont.)

Folder 20 Daily journal, 1955; trip journals 1963; parts of trip notes, 1957-1958, 1959, 1965, 1967, 1968, n.d.

Folder 21 Daily journals, 1968, 1969, 1970

Folder 22 Daily journals, 1971, 1972, 1973

Folder 23 Daily journals, 1974, 1976

Folder 24 House construction notes, 1957, 1960-1962, 1964

Folder 25 Auto logs/records, 1956, 1958-1959, 1974-1976

Folder 26 Trips: Southeast Alaska, Yukon, ca. 1971

Folder 27 Alaska travel memorabilia: airlines, railroads, bus, Anchorage - menus, theatre, Wildlife Museum, Fur Rendezvous (Rondy), art cards/stationery memorabilia, maps