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
January 2005

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

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
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

Personal life
Folder 16
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
Folder 21
Folder 22
Daily journals, 1971, 1972, 1973
Folder 23
Daily journals, 1974, 1976
Folder 24
Folder 25
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

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS179.pdf