

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Davis, Carol Beery

Carol Beery Davis Family Collection, ca. 1940s-1985

MS 182

8 boxes  
8 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp  
& Loraine Spear  
March 2000  
Revised: January 2002

**Acquisition:** The collection was donated by Carol Beery Davis in January 1989, and facilitated by her daughters, Sylvia and Connie, Acc. no. 88-65. Constance Davis donated three articles describing the wreck of the *Islander* in January, 2002, Acc. no. 2002-3.

**Access:** The collection is unrestricted.

**Copyright:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the librarian.

**Processing:** An inventory was included with the collection but the documents were in no apparent order. Materials were organized according to format or subject and placed in folders. Fragile items were housed in mylar. A finding aid is available. Trevor Davis negatives were added to the Trevor Davis Photograph Collection, PCA 97.

## Biographical Note

Carol Beery Davis was a musician, poet, writer, and piano teacher. She was born in Hicksville, Ohio in 1890, and studied piano in her childhood. She came to Alaska in 1920 to work as an organist for a silent movie theater. In 1922 she married Trevor M. Davis, a photographer. The Davises had four daughters: Sylvia, Shirley, Constance, and Patricia.

Mrs. Davis wrote music including the *Alaska Flag Song* and many pieces based on Tlingit melodies. She also wrote poetry and established the Poetry Society of Alaska, which acclaimed her Poet Laureate 1967-69. She also wrote articles and contributed them to fourteen magazines and newspapers. Among her many awards she was voted Alaska's Mother of the Year by American Mother's Golden Rule Committee, 1952, and Woman of the Year by Juneau Rotary Club, 1965. She received an honorary degree from the University of Alaska Juneau in 1983. In 1984, Mrs. Davis and her husband, Trevor, were co-recipients of a state Alaskan of the Year silver anniversary honor.

Still in evidence today is her effort to restore the old Kimball theater organ and place it in the State Office Building lobby. Carol Beery Davis died in 1990 at age 99 at the Juneau Pioneers Home.

## Scope and Contents Notes

This collection includes items from the life of Carol Beery Davis, Trevor Davis, and their daughters in Juneau, Alaska. The bulk of the materials cover the period from the 1940's to the 1980's. Correspondence of both Carol and Trevor Davis, original and copied music scores written by Mrs. Davis, music programs and concerts, three scrapbooks, logbooks from their boat *Cordelia*, and metal printing plates for some of her published sheet music are in the collection. A *Poetry Society* notebook, papers related to poetry, an article written by her about the Alaska State Museum, and various honors, awards, and certificates are included. There is also a book of music called *Motion Picture Moods* and a book of *Organist's Photo-Play Instructions*.

Items related to Trevor Davis are business correspondence, papers from his photography store, *Snap Shoppe*, various awards and honors, a list of negatives, and an article written by him entitled *A Trip Up the Taku River*. Family business, legal documents, genealogies, newspaper clippings, photographs, tapes, papers concerning Cedric Davis, a map of Douglas, and a survey for the homestead claim of Louis Lund complete the collection.

## Inventory

### Carol Beery Davis

#### Box 1

Folder 1      Correspondence

- Folder 2 Music Programs and Memorabilia
- Folder 3 Indian Music, Original Scores
- Folder 4 Indian Music, Copies of Original Scores
- Folder 5 Indian Music, Published Music
- Folder 6 Music Manuscripts and Music Paper
- Folder 7 Honors, Certificates and Awards
- Folder 8 Poetry and Poetry Society
- Folder 9 Autograph Party Pages
- Folder 10 Articles
- Folder 11 Alaska State Flag Song

**Trevor Davis**

- Folder 12 Correspondence
- Folder 13 Business Correspondence
- Folder 14 Snap Shoppe
- Folder 15 Awards, Honors, and Certificates

**Box 2**

- Folder 1 Trevor Davis, Sterling Composition Book, List of Negatives
- Folder 2 Trevor Davis, A Trip Up the Taku

**Davis Family**

- Folder 3 Correspondence
- Folder 4 Family Biographical Material
- Folder 5 Beery/Davis Genealogy
- Folder 6 C.B. Davis and Trevor Davis Awards and Honors
- Folder 7 Davis Enterprises Business

- Folder 8      Legal Documents
- Folder 9      Cedric Davis
- Folder 10     Miscellaneous
- Folder 11     Photographs
- Folder 12     Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 13     Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 14     Tapes:  
                  "Native Land Problems" Number I  
                  "Capt. G. David Gitkov" Interview

**Box 3      Cordelia Logs**

- Folder 1      Guest Book
- Folder 2      Guest Book
- Folder 3      Travel Log
- Folder 4      Travel Log
- Folder 5      Pilot House Log
- Folder 6      Pilot House Log
- Folder 7      Pilot House Log
- Folder 8      Log Book
- Folder 9      Travel Log
- Folder 10     Pilot House Log
- Folder 11     Pilot House Log
- Folder 12     Pilot House Log Book
- Folder 13     Travel Log
- Folder 14     Business Cards for "Cordelia D"

**Box 4 Scrapbooks**

Blue scrapbook

Black scrapbook

Poetry Society Notebook

**Box 5 (*Located in MS Oversize*)**

Wooden Scrapbook

**Box 6 Oversize Items and Music Books**

Organist's Photo-Play Instructions

Motions Picture Moods (Music)

Oversize Indian Music Manuscripts

Genealogy of Pearce and Horn Branches of the Wolfort Webber Family

**Box 7 (Heavy)**

Sheet Music Plates

**Box 8**

Three articles on the sinking of the *Islander*, 1901. Acc. no. 2002-3

“The Wreck of the *Islander*,” by Carol Beery Davis (11 pp. typescript)

“The *Islander*,” by Trevor M. Davis (3 pp. typescript)

[Personal account of the wreck], by Charles Ross. Copied from the *Reedley Exponent*, Reedley, CA], (2 p. typescript)

**Oversize Folder: Located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault**

Plat of Douglas Townsite Alaska U.S. Survey No. 1180; Survey commenced Nov. 1, 1917 -  
Survey completed Nov. 30, 1917

U.S. Survey No 204 of the Homestead Claim of Louis Lund; Alpha Placer Sur. No. 609 [penciled in] U.S.S. No. 2557 Churchill, U.S.S. No. 2487 Tyler, S. 668 John Berg; [Lemon Creek area, no date]