Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Simmer, Alfred G.

Alfred G. Simmer Photograph Collection, 1905-1909

PCA 137

342 photographs

Processed by: India Spartz
Revised: 1994; Aug 2004

ACQUISITION: The photographs in this collection were made from original glass plate negatives purchased by the library from George Rowswell of Lacey, Washington, August 1980. (Acc. No. 1981-005)

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PROCESSING: Safety negatives and 8 x 10” prints were made from the original glass plate negatives. The photographs are numbered and housed in archival materials with support to discourage curling. An item-level inventory is available. Simmer’s photograph numbers were added in parentheses if known.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alfred G. Simmer is listed as a photographer and civil engineer in Polk's *Alaska-Yukon Gazetteer*, 1907. Little else, however, is known of his life. His wife is identified in several Nome photos. Simmer is also listed in the Seattle directory for 1906, described as an engineer.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The views provide a special look at life on the Seward Peninsula, the communities, people, ships, roadhouses, mining activity, reindeer herding, buildings, home (including interiors and general way of life). Simmer's photographs of Eskimos include portraits and informal views with many taken at Council and Solomon. Many Eskimo people are identified. The collection includes the Nome fire (Sept. 13, 1905), and large ice hummocks on the Nome beach of the Bering Sea. Most of the photographs are captioned and labeled with Simmer’s photograph number.

INVENTORY


15. O.B. Brown's Scraper on Nome Beach, Alaska. Aug. 2, 1905 [side view of scraper and supporting framework, two men on the ground, one man on top of framework].

16. Looking up Front St., Nome, Alaska, from N.W. Commercial Co's Bridge [Lighterage Co. on left, Hotel Del Norte on right, other businesses lining both sides of street, several men, horses, and wagons in view]. (#219-X).


19. Rear of Eskimo Camp, Nome, Alaska. Showing upturned Skin Boats. 1905 [several buildings and tents behind the boats, roof of one building has sign "LUMBER"]. (#222).


22. Panorama of Nome, Alaska. July 1905 [part B, tracks on pilings extending out from the shore; buildings of Nome to the right of tracks].


24. [Two women, three men, one boy standing on the boardwalk in front of Hotel Lawrence, Nome, Alaska]. (#225).

25. At Home under the Skin Boat [four Eskimo men, two women and a child seated in shelter of skin boat turned on its side]. (#226-X).

27. Interior Eskimo Calico Igloo [two men inside canvas tent, gun in foreground, clothing hanging on a line above]. (#228-X).

28. A little native maiden [Eskimo girl wearing parka, standing on the beach]. (#229).

29. [Bridge over narrow stretch of water, building on both sides]. (#230).

30. Mouth of Nome River and Fort Davis, Alaska, 1905 [two rowboats on the river bank, several fish nets extended out into the river]. (#230A-X).

31. Lightering passengers on board S.S. VICTORIA for Seattle, Aug. 11, 1905 [passengers and freight loaded on barge, from the dock, steamship anchored in the distance]. (#231-X).


34. Hard at it [Eskimo woman washing clothes in a bucket, Nome buildings in background]. (#234-X).


37. Sluicing on Nome Beach [miner panning in a creek, sluice box-beside him; tent and cabin in background]. (#238-X).

38. Miner's Cabin built of logs and sod on Nome bench outside cabin]. (#239-X).


40. Eskimo kindergarten. Nome Beach [fourteen children standing in a circle around five other children, skin boat on its side behind the circle]. (#245-X).

41. Two little Eskimo Maids [two girls wearing fur parkas standing on beach]. (#247-X).


43. Eskimo and his boats [Eskimo man standing behind kayak, umiak and tents behind him]. (#249-X).

44. Outdoor photographer [photographer with camera set-up, taking a picture of Eskimo child, umiak and tents in background]. (#250).
45. "Ready" [photographer, dark slide out of camera, photographing Eskimo child; umiak and tents behind]. (#251).

46. Sithlrok [Eskimo child standing on beach]. (#252).

47. Senmarina - Seluktina [Eskimo woman and child standing beside overturned skin boat, woman holding moccasins in one hand and child's hand in the other]. (#253-X).


50. Nome Drill Co. prospecting on San Jose Beach [Keystone Driller Co. drill, four men and a horse]. (#256-X).

51. [Gate in a flume]. (#257).

52. [Water flume across open terrain]. (#258).


55. [Head gate of a water flume]. (#261).


57. Under the Anvil [three women under the balanced rock]. (#264-X).

58. Dredge of Seward Peninsula Mining Co. [three men beside dredge, tent in background]. (#265).


60. Nome Arctic Ry. Co. [engine and three cars, two men in cab, two cars loaded with passengers]. (#267-X).


63. [Holding tank for flume]. (#271).

63. Nome Fire, Sept. 13, 1905 [view of rubble from fire, new building construction started on same site].


67. [Nome Fire, Sept. 13, 1905. Several people inspecting the rubble, Bering Sea in background].


71. Stranding of lighters on Nome beach during storm. Sept. 29, 1905 [two barges beached, several men and a dog on the beach]. (#278-X).


74. Ogmaona [Eskimo woman wearing a fur parka; seated; three-quarter view]. (#281-X).

75. Ogmaona [Eskimo woman wearing fur parka]. (#282-X).


82. [Three women wearing costumes, Miss McKinney, Mrs. Reid, interior Golden Gate Hotel]. (#290).

83. [Three women wearing costumes; one woman reading the other's palm; interior Golden Gate Hotel]. (#291).

84. [Five women wearing costumes; interior, Golden Gate Hotel]. (#292).


87. (Five women wearing costumes; interior, Golden Gate Hotel], (#295).


90. Nome, Alaska. March 30, 1906 [snow piled in front of row of cabins; sign on one cabin "F. St. Mary Bunk House"; man standing at door], (#303)


94. Nome, Alaska. March 30, 1906 [woman standing in pathway, cut through drifted snow, leading to front door of cabin].


104. Private winter carriage of J.D. Leedy. Nome, Alaska [two women wearing fur parkas, sled and four-dog team, patches of snow, some bare ground]. (#328-X).

105. [Possibly Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Leedy wearing parkas, standing outside frame house]. (#330).

106. Solo Mining Co., Nome, Alaska. May 20, 1906 [four men at dumpsite, ore being shoveled into sluice].


109. Winter dumps at Little Creek, Nome, Alaska [dumps, dumpers and several buildings and tents, patches of snow on ground]. (#334).


114. Winter dumps on Little Creek, Nome, Alaska. May 20, 1906 [dumps ready for sluicing, several buildings; panorama, part B].

116. Malamute Pups [three puppies sitting on a chair]. (#350-X)

117. Native sons of the far North [three puppies]. (#351-X).


120. Sluicing up winter dumps at Little Creek, Nome, Alaska. May 27, 1906 [buildings among the dumps, snow patches on hills]. (#354-A).


123. The Bessie Bench near Nome, Alaska, one of the richest mines on the Seward Peninsula, May 27, 1906 [two derricks with two buildings between them; man and ore car on each derrick, snow patches on hills in distance]. (#357-X).

124. One of the winter dumps on the Bessie Bench, Nome, Alaska, May 27, 1906 [man dumping ore; building and derrick on left]. (#358-X).


126. [The Cyrus Noble, showing winter dumps, flume and cabin. May 27, 1906, Part of panorama. 359 A&B], (#359-B).


132. Derrick on No. 19.5 Ophir Cr., Council [mine site, several men working]. (#366-X).

133. Derrick on No. 19.5 Ophir Cr., Council [several men in the pit, tracks and cars for hauling ore to derrick at end of pit]. (#367-X).


135. Incline plane on No. 4 above on Ophir Creek, Council [tracks and tram to carry ore cars up to the derrick, several men with shovels in the pit, some just standing]. (#369).

136. Inclined Plane on No. 4 Above Ophir Cr., Council [ore car on inclined plane, three men standing on gravel beside a pond]. (#370-X).

137. Discovery Claim on Ophir Cr., Council [men shoveling ore into sluice]. (#371-X).

138. Dredger on the Neukluk River at mouth of Ophir Cr., Council [dredge in a pond, dredge tailings, several buildings]. (#373).

139. Street Scene in Council. 1906 [Beach Saloon, Nolan & Richardson, several men standing and seated on a bench in front of log saloon, four other log buildings and wagon loaded with gear in foreground]. (#374).

140. Log houses in Council [Beach Saloon, men seated on bench in front of saloon, three other log buildings beside saloon, one Dedrick's General Merchandise]. (#375-X).


145. [Fourth of July, 1906. Men standing on a platform supported by barrels in front of a false-front building; platform decorated with bunting; U.S. flag behind group; crowd of people to right of platform]. (#382).


154. [Smoke from tundra fire. 1906].


156. Main Street, Solomon, Alaska, 1906 [post office, telephone pay station, Archer, Ewing & Co., and several hotels and restaurants on street; group of five men and one woman in front of telephone office]. (#395-X).


159. Leland's Dredger on Solomon River [dredger on the river, tailings behind, two buildings visible on a bench at a bend in the river, far left]. (#398).


162. Resetting poles on Council line 5 m. from East Fork [man in the bottom of a hole dug through ice to set telephone pole; no snow on surface of tundra]. (#401).

163. 7 tons of concentrates from Hurrah Quartz Mine delivered at Turner's Road House for shipment to smelter on the outside [driver, two wagons, and six-horse team beside roadhouse]. (#405).

164. Mrs. Turner's Road House on Solomon River [nine men and two women in front of two-story road house]. (#407).

165. [Mrs. Turner's Roadhouse viewed from opposite side of Solomon River, bridge over the river]. (#408).

166. Panorama of Shovel Creek, Alaska. 1906 [portion of panorama; men setting telephone poles in the distance]. (#409A).

167. Lowden's Camp on Mystery Creek [dump site with sluice extending over the bank to the creek, several buildings and dumps]. (#410-X).

168. [Man dumping a carload of ore from the platform of a dumper]. (#411).

169. [Four groups of buildings, creek and low hills beyond buildings, creek and low hills beyond buildings]. (#412).


173. [Eskimo man and woman, two white women and three children, seated on logs, Council, Alaska; woman holding-baby is Mrs. Brown]. (#417).

174. Eskimos at Council, Alaska [two women, a man and five children; buildings and fire bucket behind them]. (#318-X) [#418-X?].

175. In winter garb. Council, Alaska [two white women, two children, Eskimo woman, all wearing parkas, standing beside a cut tree, possible to serve as a Christmas tree]. (#X419).

176. [Two white women wearing parkas, Council, Alaska].

177. [Two white women wearing parkas, Council, Alaska].

178. Council City, Alaska. 1906 [town at the bend in the river]. (#36a-X).

180. [Two women, three men and three children, seated on a bank outdoors]. (#423).


182. Natural Dam at Fox River Road House Looking down river [rocks protruding from both banks into the river]. (#427-X).

183. Natural dam at Fox River Road House. Looking up river [narrow river passageway between rocks]. (#428-X).


185. Glacier on E. Fork, June 20, 1906 [man and dog standing on ice at edge of creek]. (#443-X).

186. Jump Fido! [man leaning against doorway to photographer's studio; second man encouraging a dog to jump; second dog standing on boardwalk]. (#445).


188. [View from aboard SS SENATOR, looking at vessel steaming and distant shore]. (#447)

189. Unimak Pass [view from water of white caps and distant shoreline]. (#448).

190. [SS SENATOR, men on deck at the ship's bow; city visible on distant mainland]. (#449).

191. [View aboard S.S. SENATOR, looking from over a lifeboat toward ship's bow--several people on deck]. (#450).

192. [Steamer SENATOR, deck view toward the bow, several dozen men on deck]. (#451).

193. [Steamer SENATOR, deck view-toward the stern, rigging, lifeboats, several passengers and crew members on deck and bridge]. (#452).

194. [View from S.S. SENATOR, looking at barge and tug, Seattle on the shore]. (#453).

195. [View of Seattle from aboard ship]. (#454).

196. [Woman wearing apron standing near cabins aboard ship].


200. [Survey stake in foreground, transit, three men and building on R.J. Sommer's claim]. (#486).


204. Nome beach. Jan. 5, 1907 [rigging and a platform surrounded by ice sheets; two men in the foreground]. (#490-X).


206. The GREYHOUND and MARY C. crushed by ice on Nome beach. Jan 4, 1907 [men and women gathered around the boats, dock and on the ice]. (#492-X).


208. Mouth of Snake River after storm. Jan. 4, 1907 [two people on the ice out from shore, damaged wharf and waterfront buildings of Nome visible at far left]. (#494-X)


210. Moving a prospector's portable house [four people with a six-horse team hitched to cabin on runners]. #498).

211. Eskimos hauling fresh reindeer meat to market. Nome, Alaska [two reindeer in harness; Eskimo and three loaded sleds]. (#499-X).


215. Eskimos hauling fresh reindeer meat to market. Nome, Alaska [two reindeer in harness, Eskimo and two sleds loaded with carcasses, prospector's portable house being hauled by horse team in background]. (#504).


217. Ice jam on Bering Sea. Nome, Alaska. Jan 1 1907 [two men, two women, and a dog on top of pile of ice]. (#507-X);


223. Reindeer at Penny River [close-up view of herd grazing]. (#514).


225. A Reindeer herder and his Ward [Eskimo man with buck on a lead]. (#516).

226. A Reindeer Herder and his ward [Eskimo man, side view of buck on a lead].

227. Reindeer buck [reindeer with a line around his neck, loaded sleds and another reindeer beside him; group of people and sled in distance]. (#520).


229. [Reindeer herd grazing through the snow]. (#522).

230. Nome, 1907 [two women, the one wearing parka is Mrs. A.G. Simmer, child seated under a slab of ice projecting on a diagonal]. (#532).


237. Nome [Charles F. Lane standing in front of slab of ice]. (#541).


239. Among the ice hummocks on Bering Sea. Nome, Feb. 1907 [man and a woman on the ice].

240. One half mile from shore on Bering Sea. Nome. 300 below 0° [Miss Louise Thompson sitting under slab of ice]. (#544-X).

241. A Shady nook on a warm day on Bering Sea, Nome. 30° below 0° [Miss Louise Thompson with hood of her parka down, sitting under a slab of ice]. (#545).

242. A Shady nook on a warm day on Bering Sea. 30° below 0° [man sitting below slab of ice]. (#546).

243. 1/2 mile from shore on Bering Sea, Nome. 30° below 0° [man resting his arm on slab of ice]. (#547).

244. [Two people sitting on ice, large slab of ice behind them; Nome visible in the distance].

245. Mrs. R.B.A. hitching up her tandem [woman hitching two dogs to sled in front of a one-story frame house; large piles of snow around house]. (#550).

246. Off for a ride at 22° below [woman with two dogs hitched to sled; one-story frame house in background].

247. Sizing up the trail [woman and two dogs hitched to sled in front of one-story frame house with bay window]. (#553).

248. Rose, Pete and Nigger preparing to leave home for a spin [woman and two dogs in harness, sled beside them, piles of snow around one-story frame house]. (#554).


250. U.S. Survey team leaving Nome [group of men and one woman in front of frame building; loaded sled and dog team, ground snow-covered]. (#562).
251. U.S. Survey Team leaving Nome for Fairbanks [group of men and one woman in front of a frame building; loaded sled and dog team; snow-covered ground]. (#563-X).

252. U.S. Survey Team [Nome, Alaska; group of men and one woman in front of a frame building, loaded sled and dog team; snow-covered ground]. (#564).

253. Snowdrifts, Nome [woman looking through a snow-covered archway against a building]. (#566-X).

254. [Snowdrift, Nome, Alaska; deep snowdrift around buildings, pathway between drift and building].

255. Residence in Nome in midwinter [person standing beside front door of house, snow piled to the window sills, four dogs in the yard]. (#568).

256. Outside mail arriving at Nome, March, 1907 [group of men and women standing outside the post office building, corner of Avenue E, sled, team and driver, streets with a deep snow pack]. (#569-X).

257. Outside mail arriving at Nome. March, 16, 1907 [men and two children in front of the Post Office building, corner of Avenue E; driver, sled and team; piled snow on streets]. (#570-X).

258. "Upset" [three men, two-mule team, and overturned sled; building on left]. (#517-X).

259. [Three children in a play; two dressed in bird costumes]. (#576).

260. [Girl wearing crown and holding a wand]. (#577).

261. Look Pleasant. On Bering Sea, Nome, March 31, 1907 [five men standing in the snow, each holding a camera; buildings in the background; man second from right may be A.G. Simmer]. (#578-X).

262. Among the ice hummocks on Bering Sea. Nome. March 31, 1907 [six men on the ice; Nome in the distance; man on top-most point of ice may be Simmer]. (#579).

263. [Six men standing beside and sitting on an ice slab; man standing far right may be Simmer]. (#580).


267. Nome, Alaska. April 1, 1907 [buildings buried in snow, rooftops showing, cuts through the snow to the doorways]. (#584-X).


271. Snowdrifts, Nome, Alaska [four people on top of the roof, snow drifts covering portion of large building], (#588-X).

272. A Nome residence in midwinter [two men standing on roof of buried house, pathway cut through to doorway]. (#589-X).

273. Snow tunnel leading to a Nome residence in midwinter [man standing in tunnel entrance, cat on his shoulder]. (#592-X).

274. Street scene, Nome in midwinter [Miners' Hotel sign, barber pole, snow piled in center of street, narrow passageway between snow and buildings], (#593-X).


278. Snow tunnel leading to Nome Iron Works. Mar. 31, 1907 [two men and four dogs in harness on top of pile of snow; two men beside tunnel entrance; Nome Iron Works building and sign visible above pile of snow]. (#597-X).


280. Res. of Frank Petersen, Nome [man and woman sitting on a sled, team of various breeds, roof visible above snowdrifts]. (#599-X).

281. U.S. Mail from Council arriving at Nome. March 31, 1907 [driver, sled and team; man, woman and child standing next to the driver; Standard Oil Co. warehouses buried in snow up to the eaves on the left]. #600-X).

282. Front St. Nome. April 2, 1907 [Union Labor banner across the street; piles of snow and deep snow pack; two horses and sleds; several men on the sidewalk].

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286. YMCA Headquarters, Nome. April 2, 1907 [tunnel through the snow to door of single-story building]. (#605-X).


292. Cutting away ice to sink caisson in Bering Sea. Nome [men working to cut blocks of ice-caisson ready to be lowered]. (#613-X).

293. Clearing away ice blocks to admit caisson [several men working; lines extending across pile of ice blocks; steam engine covered, smoke coming from stack]. (#614-X).

294. Alone in this cold, cold world. Nome, April 6, 1907 [Mrs. Whitehead standing beside ice slab; Nome visible in distance]. (#615).


298. Among the ice hummocks on Bering Sea. Nome. 1907 [two people sitting on ice]. (#623).


305. Among the ice hummocks on Bering Sea [Mrs. Whitehead and dog beside slab of ice]. (#631).


308. A cozy corner on Bering Sea [man and Mrs. Whitehead sitting under a diagonal slab of ice; Nome in distance], (#634),


310. [Man with a mustache seated, telephone poles and low hills behind him].

311. [Woman holding a cat, two men seated, one with book, How Paris Amuses Itself, portraits on the wall].

312. [Woman wearing fur hat and stole].

313. [Woman wearing fur hat and stole].

314. [Two men, two women and a dog standing beside a doorway].

315. [Two women wearing fur parkas].

316. [Man and woman wearing fur parkas seated beside a window, man holding a small dog].

317. [Man and woman wearing fur parkas seated beside a window].

318. [Man standing on board path, buildings and fence behind him; may be A.G. Simmer].

319. [Two men and a woman standing in doorway of single-story, no. 461, cabin].

320. [Older woman, seated, building and fence behind her].

321. [Older woman seated-building and fence behind her].

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322. [Older woman wearing a hat with feather, building and fence behind her].
323. [Profile of woman standing beside small tree; small dog behind her at water's edge].
324. [Interior, rocker, furniture, china cabinet, clock, framed photos on the wall].
325. [Woman seated, beside a window, holding an open book].
326. [Woman wearing a parka].
327. [Boy and girl holding a stick from which a salmon is hanging].
328. [Woman seated in a rocker sewing; cast iron stove beside her].
329. [Totem pole beside large building; railroad tracks in foreground].
331. Goodwin-Glocker Nuptials, Nome, Alaska, October 2, 1909. Residence of Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Goodwin [parlor view, N.Y. piano, fur rug on wall, oak rocker, Art Garland stove].
332. Goodwin-Glocker Nuptials, Nome, Alaska, Oct. 2, 1909. Residence of Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Goodwin [dining room, art glass shade over dining room table, Queen Anne-style chair, Turkish corner].
334. [Nome residence; dining room showing stamped cardboard wainscot, oak plate rail, gold-leafed wallpaper, Mission-style oak furniture, carpet in geometric themes].
335. [Nome residence showing the parlor with "Turkish" border, diamond squared ceiling, striped walls, Mission-style chair, rocker, wing chair, lace-curtained window, oil lamp, upright piano with embroidered silk cover].
336. [Nome dining room showing sideboard, china cabinet, chairs and table which represent simplicity and hand craftsmanship, china, pottery, rugs, lounge covered with Indian lap robe].
337. [Bachelor quarter showing wallpaper, peeling from ceiling, plain bentwood chair, rocker, man seated on lounge, American flag swagged over doorway, Japanese lanterns, bearskin rug].
338. [Unidentified hall done in Mission style, showing thistle wallpaper, hall seat, mirror, hatrack, music cabinet, flowers in satin vase].

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339. [Unidentified parlor, Mission style, showing brick fireplace, flowered wallpaper, wood door frame, bookcase, simple ornaments].

340. Dinner given Mr. C.R. Broske in honor of his birthday. Nome, Alaska. May 12th, 1907 [group of 19 men and women seated around a table set for dinner; streamers on the ceiling radiate out from a paper bell].

341. Americanized Eskimos, Nome [two men in western-style suits, ties, vests, and caps]. (#304).


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INVENTORY OF GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES
Stored in cabinet in vault

3 Metal Containers
    #1-115
    #116-240
    #241-329