Klondike Gold Rush

Klondike Gold Rush Photograph Collection, ca. 1897-1910

PCA 232

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

Photographs digitized & available for viewing via VILDA: 015, 026, 063, 066, 068, 070-071, 074, 077, 080-081, 084, 103, 180, 191-192, 194, 229-241

Historical Note

The discovery of gold in the Klondike created a mass stampede to an area few people had seen. The United States and Canadian governments were not even certain as to the boundary line between them but the gold rush hastened the border survey.

Dyea and Skagway became boom towns as they were the starting points for the Chilkoot and White Pass Trails. Dyea soon became a ghost town when Skagway became the southern terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, which was completed in 1899. Skagway’s population also declined when the gold rush waned.

After the prospectors climbed the Chilkoot Trail, many built small boats at Lake Bennett or Lake Lindeman and sailed to Dawson and the gold fields. In May of 1898 between 20,000 and 30,000 stampeders camped on their shores, cutting trees to build boats for the journey. Even those who rode to Whitehorse on the train had to find other ways to get to Dawson.
Scope and Contents Note

Scenes from Skagway to Dawson relating to the Klondike Gold Rush. ca. 1897-1910. The collection is arranged by areas starting with Skagway and the White Pass. Dyea and Chilkoot Pass are followed by mining operations in the Dawson area and other miscellaneous views. Most of the photographs are copy prints and better images may be found in other collections such as:

P.E. Larss PCA 41
Winter and Pond PCA 21 AND 87
Paul Sincic PCA 75
E.A. Hegg PCA 124
Charles Metcalf PCA 34

INVENTORY

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   13. [People standing outside of H. A. Bauer & Co. General Merchandise store]
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   50-62 Dyea -- overall views.
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   113 Chilkoot Trail Pleasant Valley Camp.
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http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA232.pdf
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229-241 Marsh Lake, Miles Canyon, Whitehorse Rapids and Five Finger Rapids.
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