Guide to Collection

Lane, Louis L., Photographer

Louis L. Lane Photograph Collection, ca. 1906-1908

PCA 371

1 folder
49 photo postcards

Processed by: India Spartz, Jan. 1996
Inventory by: Sandy Johnston, Dec. 2017
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Feb. 2017

ACQUISITION: The Alaska State Museum purchased the postcards, along with artifacts, from Scott Cravins, a relative of Mr. Lane. The postcards were transferred to the Historical Collections in 1996. Acc. No. 1996-019.

ACCESS: The images may be viewed. However they may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The images were numbered, placed in Mylar, and into an acid free folder. Most the postcards have notes written on the verso by Lou L. Lane.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Louis Leon Lane was born May 19, 1879 in American Falls, Idaho. Lane grew up in Nome, Alaska, the youngest son of mining entrepreneur Charles D. Lane. Louis Lane became a very well respected Captain of the sea. He was known for his skill and luck navigating the Arctic north. Lane’s adventures in the Arctic included the epic voyage of the schooner Polar Bear. Captain Lane’s voyages combined walrus and whale hunting and fur trading with guiding for sport hunters. Louis Lane died of a heart attack in September 1940 while hunting deer in Alpine County in California.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Between 1906 and 1908 Louis Lane used his Kodak to take most of the photographs for the postcards in this collection. Lane mailed the postcards from Nome or Seattle to either Mrs. L.L. Lane (wife) or Mrs. C.D. Lane (mother) in San Francisco, California. Most of the cards contain notes on the verso and are signed "L.L.L." or "Lou." Lane mentions his photography on several cards and notes that B.B. Dobbs (photographer) used a number of his photographs.

Images include Eskimo women and children, subsistence activities (seal hunting, drying salmon), Eskimo kayaks in Nome, Kotzebue, and a few images from East Cape Siberia.

INVENTORY


   [Verso] “My Dear Kid,
   These to [two] kids were so large in my picture that I could only get their heads on a postal, but I think they are fine. You will be surprised to see how much fun there is in a Kodak.
   Louis”

5. Looking Wise [Native child with sunglasses on]

6. [Small Native girl seated in kayak on beach]

7. [Native child in a parka with a fur ruff] (2 copies)

8. [Little Native girl leaning on large, overturned pail]

9. [Young Native girl standing, holding a small pail] (Same as #12)

10. Potomea’s boy in the middle. [Three small Native boys] (2 copies)

   [Verso] “Dear Ma,
   Potomea’s boy is the center one, a fine fellow and very bright.

Yours Lovingly,
L.L. Lane”

11. [Small Native boy]

12. [Young Native girl standing, holding a pail] (Same as #9)

13. So Timid! [Young Native girl standing on a kayak on the beach]

14. [Three Native boys on a beach- one naked, being dressed by an adult]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
           This will not get through the open mail so accept it under cover.
           L.L. Lane”

15. [Native woman carrying a child on her shoulders] (2 copies)
   [Verso] “I will bring you out all the films and we will make up some nice albums.
           Lou”

16. [Native man in fur parka, holding small child] (2 copies)
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
           I guess you remember this fellow he is an old Nome boy.  Saw Charley
           last night.
           Lou”

17. [Young man standing outdoors with hammer in hand]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
           This is a cripple boy named after me Louis, who is the stove maker of
           Kotzebue Sound and a dandy workman.
           L.L.L.”

18. [Native man] (2 copies)
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
           One of the oldest inhabitants of the North.  Kobuck man.”
           L.L.L.”

19. The woman Doctor from Cape Prince of Wales.  L.L.L. [Elderly Native woman in fur
    parka standing on beach]

20. [The woman Doctor from Cape Prince of Wales.  Elderly Native woman in fur parka,
    sitting on beach]

21. Come on in the Water’s fine. [Child swimming]

22. Making a mat of grass.

24. [Salmon drying on racks]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
   Drying salmon for winter.
   Lou”

25. [Filleting salmon] (3 copies)
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
   Coquero cutting salmon to dry for winter. Kotzebue view.
   Your,
   L.L.L.”

26. A native grave [sticks piled “teepee” like]

27. [Wrapped body atop crossed poles]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
   Another form of grave. I think they are good pictures don’t you?
   Lots of love,
   L.L.L.”

28. [Crude casket suspended on top of inverted tree roots]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
   Still another. Am sending some to Ma at your address you must forward
   them.
   Lou”

29. [Face carved in wooden block, placed on top of wood planks]
   [Verso] “Dear Kid,
   The grave of the oldest and most successful physician of Kotzebue.
   L.L.L.”

   [Verso] “Show these to Ma. This picture I took and Dobb’s wanted it for Postals
   and put his name on it. Will write you fully on next boat.
   L.L. Lane”

31. Waiting for a seals head to pop up. [Native with a rifle in a kayak]
   [Verso] “My Dear Kid,
   This picture I took when it was raining hard but it is fine anyway. Am
   sending a set of my own Postals.
   L.L. Lane”

[Verso]  “Another I took and Dobbs uses. Weather is rotten here, rains all the time. Will write long letter on this mail.
L.L. Lane”

32a.  [Same man as #32, slightly different view]

33.  [Four people in kayaks heading out to sea]

[Verso]  “Dear Kid, The start, four out of the eight show in the picture.
L.”

34.  The finish. X wins. [Two men in two kayaks]

35.  [Three men in their kayaks]

[Verso]  “Dear Kid, They are waiting to start in the two mile race. Lou”

36.  [Two men and oomiak, with furled sail, on a beach]

37.  Chiefs boat from East Cape Siberia. (Same as #36)

38.  Baby walrus. Ain’t he a dandy.

39.  [Sluice box]


[Verso]  “Dear Kid, How would you like to kill one like this, feeling fine hope you are too. Yours, L.L. Lane”


[Verso]  “This berg is sure dead. Does it look good to you now? Love, L.L. Lane”