Guide to Collection

Thompson, Lennie Robert, d. 1976

Lennie Robert Thompson Photograph Collection, ca. 1938-1939

PCA 420

35 images Processed by: Gladi Kulp

June 2001

Revised: August 2001

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Shirley Thompson, May 2001, Acc. #2000-41. She delivered the photographs for the Thompson family while on a cruise ship tour through Southeast Alaska. Acc. #2001-57 was added in August 2001.

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

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

PROCESSING: The photographs were numbered by staff and housed in mylar. There was no original order to the collection; a few photographs have descriptions written on the back.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lennie Thompson was head of a Coast Guard Station, place unknown. He came to Alaska in 1938-1939 on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Shosco, possibly to investigate the crash of the Wiley Post-Will Rogers airplane in 1935. Thompson died in 1976 at age 70.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE:

The collection contains photographs primarily of Dutch Harbor-Unalaska region. There are photographs of whale butchering, native Alaskans in Savoonga and Gambell on St. Lawrence Island. There are also photos of King Island, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Shosco in Juneau, and a few postcards including one of the Post-Rogers airplane disaster. Thompson was probably in Alaska in 1938-1939. Accession # 2001-57 was added to the end of the collection.

INVENTORY

Photographs: some images have descriptions on verso probably written by Lennie Thompson

1-3 Butchering a whale

4-7 Native Alaskans on St. Lawrence Island

8-10 Native Alaskans

11-12 King Island

13 Unalaska-Dutch Harbor region

14 Navy Radio Station, Dutch Harbor

15 [Kodiak]

16 [Dutch Harbor per Anne Rowland, former director of Museum of the Aleutians]

17-19 Postcards of Unalaska, Nome, Post-Rogers airplane crash at Pt. Barrow

20 U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Shasca docked at Juneau, 1938
21 Ship in polar ice

22 U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Itaska [Itasca] (sunk Japanese submarine 1942)

Accession #2001-57 (added in August 2001): descriptions are taken from the verso of the photographs, probably written by Lennie Thompson

23 Unalaska, Alaska, June, 1939. Taken from “Itasca”

24 King Island natives in one of their “oomiaks” [skin boat]

25 Buying ivory novelties from the King Islanders

26 King Island natives on board Itasca

27 [front:] CWO-1 Linnie [Lennie] Thompson

28 [Kodiak. 2 buildings on waterfront; on roof of building on left: W.J. Erskine Co.]

Digitized images:

29-35 [Ivory novelties: “Thompson exchanged a bar of ivory soap and a Hershey bar with natives for these artifacts”]