Darms, Herman A.

H. A. Darms Photograph Collection, (bulk 1900-1917)

PCA 494

31 b&w photographs
Scrapbook on the Klondike
2 photo albums (240 b&w photos)
1 original negative

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, Oct. 2008
Revised by: James Simard, Jan. 2010
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Feb. 2017

ACQUISITION: Arthur Schmidt, of Napa California, inherited this collection of photographs and published works from his uncle H.A. Darms.

The first portion of the collection, including the loose photos and scrapbook, was given to The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce March 27, 1998 by the Napa County Historical Society. It was donated to NCHS by Arthur H. Schmidt via Jim Nord (from a label on plastic covering the booklet). The collection was transferred to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections on April 19, 2001. Accession # 2001-28.

The albums titled Views on the White Pass and Yukon Route..., ca. 1900 and Dawson of Today, 1901 were donated by Kathryn Nord in 2006. Accession # 2006-011a.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.
**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at the item and folder level. Original order has been maintained. The original collection of photographs, photo cards unwrapped, two of the paper photo booklets in plastic bags, one stapled, and clipped; has redundant pages. Photos and booklet were placed in Mylar sleeves, plastic, metal paper clip and staples removed. All items placed in archival folders. Redundant pages placed at back of folder with booklet. Some loose leaf pages of photo booklet, newspaper and magazine clippings placed in Mylar sheets.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Darms was a photographer and printer. According to Arthur Schmidt, Darms at one time also operated a stage line.

*Born of Swiss immigrant parents (Baldazar and Elizabeth [Trueb] Darms), H.A. Darms lived in Yountville (Napa County), California, before moving to Dawson in 1898. He established himself as a printer under the name Darms Printing Co. and worked at this business until at least 1902. His business address was Third St.*

*Although how and where Darms learned to photograph is unknown, Elder & Grainger believe he apprenticed under a Dawson photographer. One possibility as an instructor is Lorenzo E. Robertson whose work Darms published in October 1903. Darms toured Yukon mining sites in the spring 1904 and an account of his trip was published in the Whitehorse Daily Evening Star.*

*By 1905 Darms added a third career skill to his repertoire: photo-engraver. He published The Yukon Illustrated booklet that January which was intended to be issued on a weekly basis. According to Elder & Grainger (1989), several versions were published over the course of 1905. Darms again travelled that year: in July he went with the American Institute of Mining Engineers to several mining sites. On his own that same month he visited the N.A.T. & T. operations on Miller and Glacier Creeks.*


**SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE**

Photos of life in the Yukon Territory. Photos of mines and towns, miners, teachers, grocers, ministers and their families at work, on the road or trail, and in town. Some photos of Native peoples, dog teams, camps. Scrapbook of clippings about the Klondike Gold Rush.
Includes two commercially produced photo albums: *Dawson of Today, 1901*, leading business firms recommended to the public. [20 leaves, 40 photographs]; *Views on the White Pass and Yukon Route..., The Only Railroad in Alaska. and British Columbia North of the Summit of White Pass.* [ca. 1900. 45 leaves, approximately 200 photographs. Mostly Barley photos.]

**SUBJECTS**

Yukon Territory, 1897-1917
Miners, Mining, Settlers, Dawson City, Fairbanks
White Pass and Yukon Railroad

**INVENTORY**

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

1. Envelope without documents: Immediate report after accident
2. [b&w panorama of Bonanza Creek, showing Elliott Development Co.’s claims, Nos. 9, 9A, 10 and 11 above, Discovery, Y.T.; small 1917 calendar attached]
4. Crossing the divide between Sulphur Creek and Gold Run. Y.T. [Two men on a horse drawn buggy.] (neg)

**Folder 2**

60-70 pages double-sided[some duplicate pages], b&w glossy paper photo booklet of Alaska Yukon Territory. Dawson, Fairbanks, various mine claims: Moosehide Native man Amos and family and Julius, Chief of Peel River natives with Rev. Toddy, missionary at Moosehide, U.S. mail carrier Nome to Dawson, Native woman rabbit hunting, Yukon scenes, Cleary Creek/City Tanana(March 1905), Bonanza, Whitehorse Rapids, Eldorado Creek, Wrangle, Fourth of July, ice skating and downtown Sitka (1904), missions, mine, horse drawn steam engine, pack train, Glacier Creek Yukon, ice breaking, Scenes on trail and in Alsek mining District (1904), roadhouse ball, camping, Last Chance Creek. Various photographers: L. E. Robertson, Adams & Co., Hillam, Johnson, Goetzman…

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA494.pdf
town, mining claims, road, gardens, schools and school children, roads, ladies target shooting (signed Rosie Darms), tramway, steam engines, hydraulic plants, horse freighters, churches, steamers, steam shovel, Dawson fair, Fourth of July, native game for sale, big slide (1900), mastodon bones, Quartz Creek, dog teams. Last page signed: Herman Darms. More of the same photo booklet with additions of Pelly River, Chechaco Hill, Eagle City. Comparison, mining 1898 comparison with 1905, length of days and their increase in the Yukon at Dawson chart.

Folder 3

Six b&w photo cards of steamships and people on the dock.
Third card: Running the rapids in Miles Canon

b&w Photograph of steamship

Two b&w photo calendars, 1917

2 b&w Photo cards: steamer (verso: Hirsch & Kaiser Opticians 7 Kearney St. San Francisco), woman at Fraser Falls, Aug. 1900.

b&w photo Yukon World Job Printing

Photo copy of Skagway, Alaska (part of a publication?)

2 b&w photos: portrait of men and women with cabins in background, bridge with three figures

Two b&w photos of street scenes with horse and buggy in front of the Principal Hotel and the Murray Hotel respectively

b&w photo card of man at Cemetery Falls

Folder 4

400 cases eggs hauled from Whitehorse to Dawson 350 miles by H.J. Colman, April 6, 1905. [Photo copy]

Men at ice break upditch with fence and field, mine claim (Cleary or Bonanza), Roadhouse?

The Klondike Nugget interior, mine, mine and miners
Folder 5


Album page, with 4 photos. Includes photo of Herman [Darms?] 

Copy of letter from Arthur Schmidt to Methodist Church of Dawson, YT.

Box 2

Album 1

Green Scrapbook - Polly Llewellyn stamped on front cover:
Newspaper and magazine illustrations and articles from Leslie’s Weekly, The Illustrated London News, etc. on the rush to the Klondike in 1897, 1898. One signed b&w photograph: [With best wishes from Martha Louise Blochs/Black taken in my home 85th birthday anniversary Feb. 1950?).

Album 2

Dawson of To-Day, 1901, leading business firms recommended to the public. [20 leaves, 40 photographs of buildings, exteriors and some interiors of businesses]

1. Dawson City viewed from Klondike Bluff, Photographed and engraved by H.A. Drams. [loose panorama at front of album]
3. Second Avenue. Hotel McDonald.
4. L.E. Robertson, Photos, Corner Second Avenue and Ninth Street North, Dawson Y.T.
6. Freight and Stage Service. Orr & Tukey Freighters.
8. Second Avenue, Near Second Street. Ottawa Hotel.

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA494.pdf
15. First Avenue, Opposite Yukon Dock. Merchants Café. Dawson. Cantwell-Photo. [Interior]
16. Freighting to All the Creeks. J.A. Rouse.
17. Front Street, opposite Aurora Dock. Northern Café. Cantwell Photo. [Interior]
18. First Avenue. Fair View Hotel.
20. Gymnasium and Bath, Second Avenue.
22. First Avenue. Dawson City Hotel.
23. Hotel and Restaurant, First Avenue. Green Tree and Holborn Café.
25. Miners’ Drug Store, First Avenue. [Interior]
27. A.C. Office Building, Third Street. Emil Stauf Real Estate and Mining Broker.
30. Entrance to A.C. Office Building, and Directory.
31. First Avenue. [2 men standing behind counter]
32. Third Avenue, Near First Street. Hotel Grand.
36. Interior of McCormick’s Café.
37. Third Street, opposite A.C. Building. Gandolfo’s Store.
38. First Avenue, Near Mission Street. The Bell Saloon.
40. Third Avenue, Near First Street. Great Northern Hotel.
41. McDonald Iron Works and Foundry.

Box 3

Album 3

Views on the White Pass and Yukon Route., The Only Railroad in Alaska and British Columbia North of the Summit of White Pass.

**ORIGINAL NEGATIVES**
(Stored in freezer in Vault)

**1 Envelope**

**Box 1 Folder 1-#4**: Negative (5 ¾ x 9): Crossing the divide between Sulphur Creek and Gold Run. Y.T. [Two men on a horse drawn buggy. Copy negative.]