REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:
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Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

TITLE: Fred B. Wood Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1965.003

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1911-1956

Extent: 1.8 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.


Administrative/Biographical History:

By 1911, when the Alaska Northern Railway folded, it had become clear to many that a railroad line from the coast to the interior of Alaska could not be built without federal involvement. Studies over several years looked at the viability of various port towns as termini, including Valdez, Cordova, Katalla, Portage Bay, and Seward. Sewardites were hopeful that the town would be chosen as the headquarters of the Alaska Railroad, and as planning progressed, the town experienced a boom in real estate development. In March 1914, shortly after President Woodrow Wilson signed the Alaska Railroad bill, the real estate firm of Romig & Romig was established.¹ In June 1914, when the Alaska Engineering Commission arrived in Seward to begin its work, the Fred Laubner homestead was purchased for $30,000 and platted as the Laubner Addition by Robert Ashland. Shortly afterward, Joseph E. Johnson purchased the northern half of the Edmund Rudolph homestead, and platted it as the Bay View Addition.² Promotional material for the lots reflected the residents’ hopes: “The prospects of Seward being

the Ocean Terminal is pretty good proof that right now is the time to get a good lot in Bay View
Addition.” In April 1915, Seward was formally chosen as a terminus for the Alaska Railroad,
and the town boomed. By July, however, the editor of The Seward Gateway was complaining
about “favoritism” in the Alaska Railroad’s development of a town site on Ship Creek called
Anchorage; on November 17, the A.E.C. announced the relocation of the railroad headquarters
from Seward to Anchorage.³

Fred B. Wood came to Seward sometime prior to 1915 and joined J. H. Romig’s real estate
business. He also apparently ran a morgue there. He operated Wood Undertaking Company in
Anchorage from 1915-1917 and 1919-1920; in 1918, he appears in Latouche, Alaska, with the
Kennecott Copper Corporation. Wood’s wife served as assistant postmaster in Seward; she left
her position in 1920 to join her husband in California.⁴ The Woods apparently lived in
California for the rest of their lives.

Scope and Content Description:
The collection consists of photographs, deeds, correspondence, maps, ephemera, and a ledger of
funeral records created and/or collected by Fred B. Wood. The materials primarily pertain to the
history of Seward and Anchorage, Alaska, during the early development of the Alaska
Railroad, 1915-1920. Also included are some tourist brochures from the 1930s-1950s. The
images in a small photograph album are not of Alaska and are possibly of Montana scenes,
including a visit by Theodore Roosevelt.

Arrangement: Arranged by format, then by subject and further chronologically. 1. Photographs.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Most items in good condition. Lincoln Heights map torn and fragile.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:
The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for
research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage
Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold
copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may
require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:
Fred B. Wood Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1965.003

³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Processing Notes

Separated Materials
Oversize materials in map cases.

RELATED MATERIALS

SUBJECTS
Wood, Fred B.
Romig, Joseph Herman, 1872-
Rudolph, Edmund
Green, J. Lindley, 1858-1941
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Alaska Railroad
Oregon Short Line Railway Company
Cypress (Ship)
Baranof (Steamboat)
Edith (Steamboat)
Post office buildings—Alaska—Anchorage
Undertakers and undertaking—Alaska—Anchorage
Funeral rites and ceremonies—Alaska—Anchorage
Log buildings—Alaska
Sled dog racing—Alaska
Coal mines and mining—Alaska
Glaciers—Alaska
Cemeteries—Alaska
Reindeer herders—Alaska
Frontier and pioneer life—Alaska
Indians of North America—Pacific and Mountain States
Seward (Alaska)
Anchorage (Alaska)
Matanuska (Alaska)
Sutton (Alaska)
Chickaloon (Alaska)
Eska (Alaska)
Valdez (Alaska)
Latouche Island (Alaska)
Teller (Alaska)
Cape Saint Elias (Alaska)
Susitna River (Alaska)
Waterville (Wash.)
Great Falls (Mont.)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Photographs

B1/F1
.1 – View of Glacier from Mile 46 [missing as of 2011]
.2 – ‘Mile 49’ Gov. R.R. Seward, Alaska [The Loop]
.3 – Beaver Lake. Mile 36, Alaska Railroad [missing as of 2011]
.4 – Flats at mouth of Susitna River. AEC G82 P.S. Hunt
.5 – Ice run at mouth of Indian & Susitna Rivers May 12/1919. AEC G1378
.6 – Ice run, Susitna River, May 12/1919. AEC 1377 [2 copies]
.7 – North Channel, Susitna Crossing, May 16/1919. AEC G1371
.8 – Tide flats at mouth of Susitna River near Anchorage, Alaska. AEC G634 P.S. Hunt
.9 – Sutton Station, Mile 19A [missing as of 2011]
.10 – Looking down Susitna River to Camp 245 “Curry.” AEC G680 P.S. Hunt
.11 – Tugs and lighters leaving for Seldovia and Seward for the winter. AEC G253 P.S. Hunt
.12 – [Panoramic photograph] Mt. McKinley 20,460 ft. Sheelor Photo copyrighted 1916
.13 – [Panoramic photograph] Latouche Oct. 1918 (Photo by Jenner)
.14 – Wood Funeral Parlor, Anchorage, Alaska [wood building with sign “Undertaking”]
.15 – [Photographic postcard] Another view of the original Wood “brown store front” in Anchorage, Alaska [walled tent with shovel propped against it; 2 copies]
.16 – [Photographic postcard. Similar to .15, two copies]
.19 – [Photographic postcard] Anchorage post office
.21 – [Photographic postcard. Dog team outside Anchorage post office and telephone and telegraph building, circa 1916]
.22a – [Photographic postcard. Dog team coming up Fourth Avenue in Anchorage past post office building, circa 1915. No telephone & telegraph building]
.22b – First post office – Anchorage, Alaska corner 4th and F Street [7.5” x 9.5” print]

B1/F2
.26 – Anchorage terminal yard – office building & soldiers quarters, May 9, 1920. AEC H 125 H.G. Kaiser [on back:] 1922? This shows the grouping of some of the main buildings – our
office is on the side looking toward the barracks. The row of houses on the hill is “Government Hill” where the Commission originally started to erect its cottages. This is only a small part of the Comm. bldgs.

.27 – [Photographic postcard] Old Anc. grade-&-h.s. present site of City Hall annex. Second school on this site

.28– [Photographic postcard. Dog team parked on Third Avenue between F and G Streets in Anchorage]

.29 – [Photographic postcard] Main street, Anchorage, July 4th 1915 Laurence [flags and banners hang over street; walled tents with signs for Larson & Wendler, Photographer, Newt W. Pilger]


.31 – [Photographic postcard. Postcard originally with six images; this copy damaged and showing five images: Loading gravel in Oliver dump cars; Dinkey locomotive; Empress Building, 4th Ave.; Frisco Café and California Pool Room and Cigar Store, northeast corner 4th and H streets; Brown & Hawkins store, NE 4th and E streets]


.33 – The funeral of William Elliot (“Billie the Horse”) Anchorage Jan. 26th 1916. Laurence [on back:] Funeral of one of Alaska’s “old timers” using dog team and sled as conveyance to the cemetery. “Billie the Horse” (Wm. Elliott) was one of the best known men in Alaska at one time a millionaire and mine owner but in later years went broke and was buried by his friends. Funeral in charge of Undertake Wood (x), Anchorage, Alaska. [Alaska Free Press index lists death date of William “Billy the Horse” Elliott as 1889]

.34 – The passing of George Pekos [Jekos], Anchorage, Alaska, June 24th 1916. The Sydney Laurence Co. [on back:] Greek funeral, Anchorage, Alaska, “x” – the undertaker, F.B. Wood

.35 – [Funeral procession with automobiles, marching band, and two flag bearers, Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, past Baxter’s News Depot, Brown & Hawkins, Montana Pool Room, B.C. Nichols, and Reilly’s Cafe]


.38 – A.E.C. coal mines Chickaloon Oct. 11, 1918. AEC G1030-1031


.40 – Miners dormitory, Eska, July 23, 1921. AEC G 1863 H.G. Kaiser [on back:] On Alaska Railroad

.41 – Eska coal mines, Alaska, H.G. Kaiser [on back:] On Alaska Railroad. The Commission ceased operations at the Eska mine early in April 1922 in order to give private enterprise a better chance

B1/F3


.43 – [Photographic postcard] A distant scene from our back door. Resurrection Bay, Seward

.46 – [Photographic postcard] Start of Marathon race, Seward, Alaska, July 4th '19
.47 – [Photographic postcard] Across the street from our house. The school house is the lower building
.50 – [Color postcard] An October night, Ketchikan, Alaska 5529 [postmarked June 7 1930 and addressed to F.B. Wood, San Francisco]
.51 – [Color postcard] Valdez, Alaska, showing Valdez Glacier. 5618 c. 1913 P.S. Hunt
.52 – [Color postcard] Orr stage leaving Valdez, Alaska, for Fairbanks
.54 – “Moonlight in the far north,” La Touche Island, Alaska, Nov. 15, 1918 [on back:] This is the only picture I can obtain at this time. Will endeavor to get one showing the large mills & mine workings. This picture does not show the mills and mine bldgs. which are off to the right. Power plant. Gen. office bldg. where I work
.55 – [Color postcard] St. Sergis cemetery [sic], Alaska
.56 – [Photographic postcard] Nushagak, Alaska. 975 [mark of J.E. Thwaites]
.57 – [Photographic postcard] Russian church cemetery [sic], Bristol Bay Bering Sea [mark of J.E. Thwaites]
.59 – [Photographic postcard] Yacht Cypress, Bella Bella, B.C. Thwaites 3115
.61 – [Photographic postcard] Our party taken the day of the picnic [southeast Alaska?; 2 copies]
.64 – Alaska shore [face of unidentified glacier]
.65 – [Photographic postcard. Possibly dog sled racing; dog team walking past line of spectators]
.66 – [Photographic postcard. Unidentified glacier]
.67 – [Photographic postcard. Homestead with farm and log buildings. Matanuska?]
.68 – [Photographic postcard] First white child to be born in Alaska [small child with hat stands near river; Martha “Babe” White?]
.69 – Seasons Greetings [on back:] A souvenir of the days that have passed. Christmas 1933 [reproduction of a painting of a cache, possibly by Sydney Laurence]

B1/F4
.70 – [Panoramic photograph] Above the dam [unidentified location]
.71 – [Panoramic photograph] A street scene, Waterville, Wash. No. 49 Alfred S. Witter Photo [on back:] 1908 view of the largest town in the district
.72 – [Panoramic photograph, colored. Scenic view of forest, mountains, and lake]
.73 – [Panoramic photograph, colored] A41335 [Tipis on plains, with some fir trees; wooden buildings in distance. Washington State?]

B1/F5
[Remaining images are mounted in a 5 3/4” x 7 3/4” photo album; all non-Alaskan, possibly Montana, circa 1911?]
.74 – [Theodore Roosevelt, tipping his hat to the crowd]
.75 – [View down unpaved street lined with businesses, pedestrians on sidewalks; large banner over street and low mountains in distance]
.76 – [three-story stone building with central steeple of five stories; university?] 
.77 – [woman feeding pony from small bowl]
.78 – [Native American man seated on box in courtyard, wearing brimmed hat, striped blanket, and decorative bag]
.79 – [man from .78 with woman in striped blanket and headscarf, head slightly elongated, holding what is possibly a cradle board]
.80 – [same couple as in .79, seated in courtyard with wooden fence and buildings behind]
.81 – [locomotive of the Oregon Short Line]
.82 – [small campsite along river or pass, dusting of snow on ground]
.83 – [three men at small campsite in dry riverbed]
.84 – [same woman as in .79-.80, sitting on blanket in courtyard, holding what is possibly a cradle board]
.85 – [train wreck, houses of town in distance, bystanders standing around wreckage]
.86 – [train wreck, passenger cars off to side of twisted rails, bystanders watching]
.87 – [large building, possibly mine, surrounded by plains with low brush]
.88 – [large crowds sit outside at long tables eating, and man wearing sash and hat stands in foreground; sign on brick wall to left reads “Dash’s for wallpaper paints oil & glass”; people stand on low roof at back, with writing along eaves “Cut flowers pot plants in season at Dash” – all “S” printed backwards]

Manuscript materials
B1/F6
[In an envelope labeled “Seward, Alaska Bay View details, F.B. Wood, and sample deeds, contracts, location notices, etc.”]
- Land title. Edmund and Julia Rudolph to Town of Seward. February 1915. Unsigned. 3 pages
- Correspondence. Typescript letter signed. J. Lindley Green to J.H. Romig, Seward, Alaska, February 15, 1915. 1 page
- Land title. Edmund and Julia Rudolph to Town of Seward. March 2, 1915. Unsigned. 3 pages
- Map. Manuscript map of Seward, Alaska, showing land survey units and land owners, city limits, railroad tracks, and water depths in Resurrection Bay. 1 page
- Blank. Form to list real estate for sale with Romig & Romig. 1 sheet
- Advertisement. Bay View Addition, Seward, Alaska. 1 sheet
- Contract. Willapacific real estate contract. Modified in manuscript to serve as draft contract. No date. 1 page
- Contract. Real estate contract, Bay View Addition. Draft signed by Edmund Rudolph. No date. 1 page
- Contract. Real estate contract, Bay View Addition. Sample agreement signed by J. Lindley Green. No date. 1 page

[In an envelope labeled “Alaska Real Estate and Lots Seven and Eighteen – Block Three Bay View, Seward, Alaska, complete records paid in full, Feb 5th 1919"]
- Land title. Edmund and Julia Rudolph to F.B. Wood. March 26, 1915. 1 page
- Receipt. Property tax payments, F.B. Wood to Town of Seward. 1915-1918. 4 pages
- Deed. Bill of sale, Hugh Dougherty to F.B. Wood, June 21, 1920. 1 page
- Typescript. Statement. List with purchasers, amounts of sales, commissions paid, and commissions due. No date. 3 pages

[Loose materials]
- Plat. Laubner Addition to Seward, Alaska. Alaska Realty Co. No date. [1913?] 
- Clipping. “$40,000,000 Seward the forty million dollar city of the great northern empire.” The Post-Intelligencer, Seattle, Sunday May 23, 1915.
- Clipping. “Remember Bay View lots are 45 feet wide and 100 feet long.” No date.
- Clipping. “Bay View lots 45 feet wide, 100 feet long.” No date.

B1/F8
- Lease. F.B. Wood from U.S. Forest Service, five acres in Chugach Forest Reserve. Undated. 1 sheet of treated canvas
- Plat. Lincoln Heights, Great Falls, Montana. Malloy Investment Co. No date.
- Contract. William G. Malloy, for sale of real estate. 1913. Unsigned. 2 pages

Publications
B1/F9
- Program. Fourth of July celebration, Anchorage, Alaska, 1917.
- Offprint. “An act to require the registration of vital statistics in the Territory of Alaska and for other purposes.” April 25, 1913.

B1/F10
- Brochure. Alaska, tour of enchantment. M.S. Posada Manana. No date. 1 sheet
- Map. Alaska pocket map. Rand McNally and Company. No date. [1940s]

B1/F11
- Extract. Alaska sportsman. February [1956?]
[Items removed from ledger in B2]

**B2**
- Ledger. [Wood Undertaking Company funeral records for Anchorage, Alaska, 1915-1920]
  “Robert Hayner Acct.” at front
  E. G. Chisholm, March 3, 1915
  John B. Parks, July 18, 1915
  Albert Pierce, August 4, 1915
  Albert Brown, August 23, 1915
  John A. Mathison, September 8, 1915
  George Krizan, September 18, 1915
  John Johnson, October 11, 1915
  W. H. Peterson, November 11, 1915
  Elsie C. Hanson, November 19, 1915
  Robert W. Dunlap, November 24, 1915
  Frank Robinson, December 22, 1915
  Ernest Royden Ramsey, January 3, 1916
  William Elliott “Billie the Horse”, January 23, 1916
  Swan Larson, February 2, 1916
  Albert Baker, March 31, 1916
  James English, May 18, 1916
  Montgomery D. Crocker, May 19, 1916
  John Erickson, June 3, 1916
  John Brockman Seiffert, June 11, 1916
  George Jekos, June 22, 1916
  Katrina Ephim, Native, July 3, 1916
  John W. Clem, July 5, 1916
  Alexander Tuckauff, July 8, 1916
  Peter Sinnott, July 17, 1916
  John Carlson, July 28, 1916
  Joe, Native, August 1, 1916
  Joe Rarichvoich, August 14, 1916
  John Linderboom, August 21, 1916
  Paul Brachna, September 9, 1916
  Theofield Eeraerts, September 10, 1916
  Cora Vought Wilkinson, September 15, 1916
  Clara Viola Foreman, September 18, 1916
  Nick Sacoff, September 27, 1916
Unknown, September 29, 1916
Julia Matte Dwyer, October 1, 1916
Nick Glumac, October 31, 1916
John Nestor, October 31, 1916
Torkel Aamodt, November 7, 1916
Princess Nicoli, Native, November 15, 1916
Andrew Grossley, November 21, 1916
Nelson, December 1, 1916
Caall Freeman, December 5, 1916
Frank Mathison, December 28, 1916
Horace C. Emery, January 15, 1917
Burt G. Stewart, January 15, 1917
Mrs. Marguerite Kirby, February 1, 1917
Sam Myran, February 6, 1917
Sam J. Milovich, March 1, 1917
Victor Weatherhead, March 10, 1917
Allen, March 14, 1917
C. L. Kimmell, March 28, 1917
Simon Johanson, April 4, 1917
Willard B. Hastings, April 22, 1917
Frank A. Parker, April 27, 1917
Joe Sartori (Giuseppe Sartor), May 1, 1917
Robt. Dunlap [disinterment of Robert W. Dunlap, buried November 24, 1916]
Suthar A. Campbell, May 9, 1917
Aug. G. Smith, May 12, 1917
A. Peterson, May 21, 1917
Gust. Tampakis, May 27, 1917
George Teko, May 30, 1917
S. M. Dowell, June 15, 1917
Infant son Ray C. Larson, June 17, 1917
Jim Osman (Osman A. Surhaoff, June 21, 1917
Stillbirth (M. J. Conroy, father), June 29, 1917
Richard W. Feltham, July 3, 1917
Ethel A. Gerber, July 4, 1917
Joe Foucher, July 10, 1917
Ernest Jesse Warner, July 27, 1917
William Stone Leach, July 27, 1917
Nels Jensen, July 29, 1917
P. Burzio, August 9, 1917
Alfred C. Morse, August 9, 1917
Chas. S. Anderson, September 22, 1917
John Snook, disinterment, November 2, 1917 [in different hand]
Russian, October 1918
Walter Werner, March 22, 1919
Alma Drayton, May 30, 1919
George Thomas Brown, August 10, 1919
Daniel Andrew Sullivan, August 23, 1919
Isaac Evans, September 3, 1919
Lum C. Straughan, January 1, 1920
Gus Bolstad, April 28, 1920
William Alexander MacPherson, May 10, 1920

Guide written: July 2012