REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:
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TITLE: Eklutna Vocational School Northern Light Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2001.023

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1939-1941

Extent: 18 items, .2 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Virginia (Smith) Sherwood; Nathan L. Smith

Administrative/Biographical History:
Virginia (Smith) Sherwood was born in Gambell, Alaska. Her father, Nathan L. Smith, was a schoolteacher in Alaska in the 1930s and early 1940s. The Smith family lived in Eklutna, Alaska from fall 1939-June 1941, where Nathan Smith was the radio and shop teacher at the Eklutna Vocational School. Mr. Smith was an amateur photographer, and he photographed people and their activities in the communities where he lived. Mr. Smith took most of the photographs included in this collection.

The Department of Interior’s Bureau of Education built the Eklutna Vocational School in 1924 to house and educate children orphaned by the 1918 influenza epidemic in Alaska. A fish camp was also built and maintained by the school to provide training in subsistence fishing and to help provide food for the children. Courses at the school were mainly vocational training classes. By 1930, 110 students were enrolled at the school. In 1946, the school’s buildings were condemned and the school was permanently closed.

Scope and Content Description:
The collection consists of a January 1941 school newspaper, 16 photographs of the school, and 2 compact discs of scanned images. The newspaper includes articles written by students and
faculty, hand-drawn illustrations, activities calendar, sports news, book reviews, poetry, health news, jokes, stories, and a gossip column.

Arrangement:
Arranged by format.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

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

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: DVD drive required to access digital files on media discs.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:
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Preferred Citation:
Eklutna Vocational School Northern Light Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2001.023

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information:
Newsletter and photographs were donated in 2001 by Virginia Sherwood. The compact discs containing scanned photographs were donated by Sherwood in 2002.

Processing Notes: Photographs on compact disc #2 (F3) will be printed at a later date.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

**SUBJECTS**
Smith, Nathan L., fl. 1939-1941
Eklutna Vocational School--Photographs
Vocational education--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Vocational education--Alaska--Eklutna--Sources
Alaska Natives--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Alaska Natives--Education--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Alaska Natives--Education--Alaska--Eklutna--Sources
Vocational school students--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Alaska Native students--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Teachers--Alaska--Eklutna--Photographs
Eklutna (Alaska)--Photographs
Detailed Description of the Collection:

Series 1: Periodicals

**B1/F1**


Series 2: Photographs

**B1/F2**

.2 – Group photograph. [Students posed under sign that reads “EKLUTNA;” at Eklutna train station?]


.4 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41; [Group of students playing Blanket Toss on school grounds.]

.5 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41; [Female student holding a camera while two other female students and a male student look on. Sticky note on photo reads “Bill Bernstein?”]

.6 – Group photograph. Eklutna 1939-41. [Four female students.]

.7 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41. [Three male students with radio apparatus.]

.8 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41. [Two male students in machine shop.]

.9 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41. [Male student wearing headphones, with radio apparatus.]

.10 – Photograph. N.L Smith, (radio/shop inst) J.D. Chandler, principal Eklutna 1939-41. [Smith and Chandler stand with two male students beside a wooden boat.]

.11 – Photograph. Eklutna 1939-41. [School buildings with EKLUTNA sign in foreground. Handwritten on verso: “Gym” and “Boys Dorm Knik Hall,” along with hand-drawn pictures of buildings.]

.12 – Group photograph. [Two male students and one female student wearing fur parkas.]

.13 – Photograph. [Four standing students and one seated student examining a large map.]

.14 – Photograph. [Wooden building, perhaps a barn, with large letters on roof that read “MATANUSKA VALLEY FAIR.”]

.15 – Photograph. [Anchorage Post Office, Fourth Avenue, downtown Anchorage; people on sidewalk and cars on street in foreground.]

.16 – Photograph of painting. Handwritten on verso: “artist unknown (WUH 816101).” [Painting of Alaska Natives’ whale hunt. Includes scenes of butchering whales and beaching a boat on shore ice.]

.17 – Photograph of painting. Handwritten on verso: “artist unknown (WUH816101).” [Group of Alaska Natives playing Blanket Toss, while man looks on from left.]

Series 3: Multimedia

**B1/F3**

- Compact disc. Scanned images of photos of Eklutna Vocational School, 1940. Includes photos of Eklutna RR Station, Eklutna School, Aerial View, Blanket Toss, Student Cinematographers, Girl Students, Radio Class, Engine Class, Radioman, Boatbuilders. From the collection of N.L. Smith. [See above for numbers and detailed descriptions of photographs numbered 2-11.]
- Compact disc. Scanned images of Eklutna Vocational School, 1939.
.18 – Photograph. [Downtown street scene.]
.15 – Photograph. See description above.
.19 – Photograph. [Two Alaska Native girls wearing fur parkas.]
.20 – Photograph. [Alaska Native girl wearing fur parka.]
.21 – Photograph. [Head shot of Alaska Native girl.]
.22 – Photograph. [Alaska Native girl wearing fur parka and hood.]
.23 – Photograph. [Alaska Native girl wearing fur parka and hood.]
.24 – Photograph. [Two Alaska Native girls wearing fur parkas.]
.25 – Photograph. [Alaska Native girl wearing gut parka and hood.]
.12 – Photograph. See description above.
.26 – Photograph. [Alaska Native girl wearing gut parka and hood.]
.27 – Photograph. [Three pairs of fur boots.]

Guide written October 2011