

John C. Nielsen (1907-1988). Papers and photographs. .2 cu ft. Inventory.
B03.21

Biographical Note

John C. Nielsen was born in Afognak, Alaska on April 22, 1907. His mother, Mary Balue was a native of Alaska, and his father, John B. Nielsen emigrated from Denmark. After Balue's death in 1915, eight year old John traveled alone from Alaska to live with relatives in Pottawattamie, Iowa. Educated through grammar school, at the age of nineteen he returned to Alaska to work with his father on the Alaska railroad. He later worked for Kennicott Mining Co. in the Wrangell Mountains. Nielsen joined the Army Air Force in 1942. When his service time ended in 1945 he moved to California, and lived in the San Francisco Bay area. In 1951, John married Fruma and worked for a heating company in San Leandro for over twenty-one years before retiring. He died in Redwood City, California on October 30, 1988.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of papers, photographs, and artifacts relating to John C. Nielsen's journey from Alaska to Pottawattamie, Iowa in 1915, his early schooling in Iowa, his army service during World War II, his death records, photographs spanning from the mid 1920s until 1942, and memorabilia and information about the Nielsen family. The collection is divided into eight series: biographical papers; trip papers, education papers, World War II service records, death records, miscellaneous family papers, visual images, and memorabilia.

The collection was given to the archives by Dolly Smith in 2003.

Processing Note

The collection was processed by Diann Benti in August 2004.

John C. Nielsen (1907-1988). Papers and Photographs

Inventory

Series 1. Biographical Papers; n.d.

This series consists of papers relating to biographical information about Nielsen, as well as that of his father in Denmark. The donation letter also provides information on Nielsen's life. 4 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/1 | Biography of John C. Nielsen, handwritten (3 pages); n.d. |
| | Photocopied biographical notes (2 different); n.d. |
| | Letter from Dolly Smith to Walter Van Horn and Kathleen Hertel, Anchorage Museum of History and Art; 15 Aug 2003. |

Series 2. Trip Papers; 1915.

This series consists of artifacts relating to Nielsen's 1915 voyage from Alaska to Iowa to live with relatives after the death of his mother. 3 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/2 | Letter from Mrs. Helen Van Campen to Conductors of eastbound overland trails for Council Bluffs; 29 Aug 1915. |
| | Needlepoint name tag, 4x5" fabric; 1915. |
| | Newspaper Clipping, "Young Lad Alone on a Long Trip"; Sep 1915. |

Series 3. Education Papers; 1915-1919.

Papers relating to Nielsen's grammar school education in Iowa. 5 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1/3 | Report Card (Pottawattamie County, Iowa); 2 Jun 1916. |
| | Perfect Attendance Certificates (Boomer); May 1919, 26 Sep 1919 (2 items). |
| | School Conduct Certificates; 19 May 1916, 24 May 1919 (2 items). |

Series 4. World War II Service Papers and patches, 1942-1945.

14 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1/4 | Soldier's Individual Pay Record booklet; 18 Nov 1942. |
| | Immunization Register; ca. 1944 (2 items). |
| | Chevrons; n.d. (3 items). |
| | Photograph, B03.21.103, [John Nielsen]; ca. July 1944. |

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1/4 | <p>Notice of Classification card; 11 Dec 1945.</p> <p>Orders for John C. Nielsen and Leslie B. Crump; 29 Aug 1945.</p> <p>Special Orders for Recuperation; 7 Sept 1945.</p> <p>Honorable Discharge certificate, paper and negative; 21 Oct 1945 (2 items).</p> <p>Certificate for Meritorious Service; n.d.</p> <p>Copy of Enlistment Card Record; 1942, (added to collection Aug 2004).</p> |

Series 5. Death Records; 1988.

2 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/5 | <p>Certificate of death; 2 Nov 1988.</p> <p>Certificate honoring memory of John C. Nielsen, signed by President Ronald Reagan; n.d.</p> |

Series 6. Miscellaneous Family Papers and Photographs

These items were received by the archives taped to the back of the cardboard sleeve of the photograph of "Paul, Etta" (B03.21.106); to preserve original order they have been maintained in a separate series. 6 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1/6 | <p>Newspaper Clipping, "Driver is Named On All-America Trapshoot Team"; 19 Apr 1962.</p> <p>Newspaper Clipping, "Albino Bullsnake Is Found on Farm"; n.d.</p> <p>Photograph, B03.21.104, "John Nielsen with pipe"; n.d.</p> <p>Photograph, B03.21.105, "Norman, Marius, Everett, Evan, Paul, Fremont"; n.d.</p> <p>In Memoriam, Henrietta Nielsen; 13 April 1976.</p> <p>Photograph in cardboard sleeve, B03.21.106 "Paul, Etta"; n.d.</p> |

Series 7. Visual Materials

Consists of photographs, postcards, slides and negatives relating to Alaska, World War II, and Nielsen and his family, with dates spanning from 1925 to 1988. About 84 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/7 | <p>B03.21.29, Postcard, Circle City, Alaska; n.d. (1 item).</p> <p>B03.21.30-31, Postcards, Berry Dredging Co., Mammoth Cr., Alaska; n.d. (2 items).</p> <p>B03.21.33, Postcard, Circle Hot Springs, Alaska; 1942 (1 item).</p> |

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/8 | B03.21.1-17, Photographs, Construction Work, Machinery, Equipment; n.d. (17 prints). |
| | B03.21.18, Photograph, Spencer Glacier; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.19, Photograph, Cordova; Mar 1935. |
| | B03.21.20, Photograph, The <i>Alaska</i> on the mud at Wrangell; 19 Mar 1935. |
| | B03.21.20.1, Photograph, <i>Princess Norah</i> at Wrangell; [Mar 1935]. |
| | B03.21.21, Photograph, Unidentified U.S. Post office and Courthouse building; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.22-23, Photographs, Alaska Hotel Fire; 7:20a.m, 20 Apr 1935 (2 prints). |
| | B03.21.24, Photograph, Hospital; 4 July 1935. |
| | B03.21.25, Photograph, Haines; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.26, Photograph, House; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.27, Photograph, Musk Ox; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.28, Photograph, Snowy hillside; [1935]. |
| | B03.21.32, Photograph, Airplane at Juneau, Jerry Jones, Pacific Alaska Airways; n.d. |
| 1/9 | B03.21.34, Photograph, Fairbanks City Hall; n.d. |
| | B03.21.35, Photograph, Banner for Slim Williams and Jack Logan's trip on Inter-National Highway; n.d. |
| | B03.21.36, Photograph, Laplander, Latouche, Alaska; 1925. |
| | B03.21.37, Photograph, Alaska Steamship Company, Latouche, Alaska; 1925. |
| | B03.21.38-42, Photograph, John Nielsen, Latouche, Alaska; 1930. |
| | B03.21.43, Photograph, John; 1932. |
| | B03.21.44, Photograph, John with group going to pick wild strawberries, Cordova, Alaska; 1933. |
| | B03.21.45, Photograph, Ed Brown plowing potato field, Circle Hot Springs, Alaska; 1936. |
| | B03.21.46, Photograph, Chitna, Alaska; 1938. |
| 1/10 | B03.21.47, Photograph, Photograph, Group of men; n.d. |
| | B03.21.48, John Nielsen; n.d. |
| | B03.21.49, Photograph, Fur Pelts, snowshoes; n.d. |
| | B03.21.50, Photograph, Small boat; n.d. |
| | B03.21.51, Photograph, Group of men, women, and child; n.d. |

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|--|
| 1/10 | B03.21.52, Photograph, "Father and Gilbert"; n.d. |
| | B03.21.53-54, Photographs, Woman, man and baby; n.d. (2 prints). |
| | B03.21.55, Photograph, Office Interior; n.d. |
| | B03.21.56, Photograph, Construction lot; n.d. |
| | B03.21.57, Photograph, Log cabin in snow; n.d. |
| | B03.21.58-59, Photographs, Cow Skull; n.d. (2 prints). |
| | B03.21.60, Photograph, Machinist, Miller House, Alaska; n.d. |
| | B03.21.61, Photograph, "Martie"; n.d. |
| | B03.21.62, Photograph, Snow covered tree; n.d. |
| | B03.21.63, Photograph, Man; n.d. |
| | B03.21.64, Photograph, Polar bear cub, Archie Laird; n.d. |
| | B03.21.65-67, Photograph, Airplane; n.d. (3 prints). |
| | B03.21.68-82, Photograph, Construction, [Railroad?]; n.d. (15 prints). |
| | Slides, B03.21.100-101, Eagle Summit, Alaska; Jan 1940 (2 items). |
| | Photograph, B03.21.102, of raw copper and finished copper, mining candle light; n.d. |
| | B03.21.107, Photograph, John and Fruma Nielsen; Oct 1988. |
| 1/11 | B03.21.8a, B03.21.8.1a, B03.21.16a, 67a, Negatives of prints; n.d. (4 items). |
| | B03.21.83-99, Negatives of Alaska sights, no prints; n.d. (17 items). |

Series 8. Memorabilia.

Slides, B03.21.100-101, Eagle Summit, Alaska; Jan 1940 (2 items).

5 items.

| Box/Folder | Description |
|------------|---|
| 1/12 | Identification Card, United States Smelting Refining and Mining Company; 21 Apr 1941. |
| | Chitina-Fairbanks Road, Official Distance Table; n.d. |
| | "Jeffery for Judge" card; 1954. |
| | Print Envelope to J.C. Nielsen, Miller House, Alaska; n.d. |
| | Envelope to Cann's, Fairbanks, Alaska; n.d. |