

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: 2010 Cook Inlet Historical Society Intern; Amy Valentine, Archivist

TITLE: Sidney Hamilton Photograph Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1976.082

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1939-1962

Extent: 4 boxes, Oversize

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Sydney H. Hamilton, Eve Hamilton, Hewitt's Photo Shop

Administrative/Biographical History:

Sidney Hamilton came to Anchorage in 1937 and over the next 26 years he operated his portrait and commercial photograph studio on the balcony of Hewitts Drug Store. In 1944, he married Eve Hamilton and in 1962 the couple and Sidney's daughter, Emily, moved to Grass Valley, CA. Hamilton died in 1967.¹

At the time of Hamilton's employment, Hewitt's was owned by Lu Liston who purchased the store with Francis Bowden in 1948. Hewitt's stood downtown at the northeast corner of Fourth and E, before it was demolished following the 1964 earthquake. Despite this however, Hewitt's continued to operate at other locations and was sold by Liston in 1978.

Scope and Content Description:

The Sydney H. Hamilton collection consists of 885 photographs and negatives primarily taken Sidney, though some were taken by Eve Hamilton; the card catalog specifies the photographer when known. The images depict the city of Anchorage and the Cook Inlet area from the early 1940's to mid-1950's. Images in this collection include exterior shots of retail and commercial

¹ "Death Takes Photographer." *Anchorage Times*, 10 February 1967.

businesses and scenic views in Anchorage, such as the Post Office – Federal Building, Providence Hospital, Harbor, Alaska Railroad Depot, Knik Arm Apartments, and Mt. Susitna. Also included are images of various lodges and recreation areas, stops along the Alaskan Railroad, and other Alaskan towns, including Juneau, Seward, Curry, and Fairbanks.

Arrangement: Arranged by prior archivist.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

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

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

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: [photographer,] Sidney Hamilton Photograph Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1976.82

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

The collection was donated by Hamilton's daughter, Emily H. Turner, in 1976.

Processing Note

In 2010, Photo Archivist Megan Peacock noted that much of the collection is nitrate film; balance is acetate. Nitrate images were beginning to deteriorate and the prints in the collection are largely contract prints made by the museum after collection donated. Not all negatives have prints, not all prints have negatives present.

In February 2026, a box of unprocessed negatives was found at the end of the collection.

Collection contains outdated language that does not reflect the mission and goals of our institution today. We consent to input and recommendations from the public as we work on decolonizing our collections.

Separated Materials

Nitrate materials have been placed in freezer. Some materials with Oversize.

RELATED MATERIALS

B1979.002 Alaska Railroad Collection

B1989.016 Lu Liston Collection

B1995.010 George E. Allen Collection

SUBJECTS

Alaska Railroad

Grandview (Alaska)

Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu (Alaska)

Bears

Bootlegger Cove (Alaska)

Caches

City Hall (Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu, Alaska)

Cook Inlet Historical Society

Copper River

Curry (Alaska)

Denali, Mount

Dogs

Eklutna / Idlughet (Alaska)

Fairbanks (Alaska)

Fishwheels

Federal Building (Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu, Alaska)

Felix Al Taffer Farm

Fourth Avenue (Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu, Alaska)

Glenn Highway (Alaska)

Goose Bay

Hotels

Houses and Buildings

Juneau / Dzánti K'ihéeni (Alaska)

Kenai Peninsula (Alaska)

Knik (Alaska)

Lakes

Log cabins

Matanuska Valley (Alaska)

Ninilchik (Alaska)

Palmer (Alaska)

Portage Glacier (Alaska)

Providence Hospital (Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu, Alaska)

Recreation

Spenard (Alaska)

Susitna, Mount

Seward (Alaska)

Steamboats

Valdez (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

- .3 - [from card catalog: An early character of the Anchorage, Cook Inlet area, called Moosemeat John. The Anchorage Daily Times had a write up about him when he failed to return from a trip with his boat down the Inlet.] [Studio portrait of "Moosemeat" John Hedberg. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .5 – [from card catalog: Anchorage, 4th Avenue] [winter street scene with snowplow, City Hall and Kimball's Dry Goods, 1940s. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .17 - [from card catalog: 3 polar bear skins 4-2-50] [Bear pelts displayed in front of the Alaska Fur Factory. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .30 – [from card catalog: 5-15-49] [Bever's & Pfeil building, corner of Fourth Avenue and E Street. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .36 - [From back:] Street scene of Fourth Avenue looking east towards mountains. Anchorage, May 15, 1949. [Signs for 1st National Bank and 4th Avenue Theater. Cars line the street, and pedestrians can be seen walking. Stop lights hang above the street. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .41 – [from card catalog: 4th Avenue, 5-15-49] [automobiles parked along street in front of Northern Commercial Company. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .75 – [from card catalog: Clouds at Cold Feet Bluff] [Scenic clouds over Cook Inlet at Bootlegger Cove. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .79 – Bootlegger's Cove [Row boats on the frosty shore of Knik Arm, small buildings in background. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .80 – Ice in Cook's Inlet Anchorage, Alaska "Hewitts Photo" [large ice chunks along Knik Arm shoreline, boats and Mount Susitna at distance. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .110 - [from card catalog: Eve's town shots, August 1948 & 1949. NW Corner of 4th Avenue and L Street. See also B76.82.109] [building exterior midwinter. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .111 - [from card catalog: Bailey Bell House, January 1951, 1334 K Street] [residence covered in icicles. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .114 – [from card catalog: Mrs. Romig's house] [exterior view of Emily Romig's residence. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .115 – [from card catalog: Mrs. Romig's house] [exterior view of Emily Romig's residence. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .129 – [from card catalog: July 4, 1959 Raising the 49th star flag] [Fourth of July parade down L Street near Knik Arms Apartments, Color Guard carrying flags, followed by U.S. Army Band. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .132 – [from card catalog: Winter streets, USO church February 1946] [side view of log building covered in icicles, cache with "USO" at left. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .153 – [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad? Seward? Moose Pass to Portage?] [buildings with a snowy mountain background, possibly along the Alaska Railroad. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .159 – [from card catalog: Beluga Point, between Rainbow and Potter along Turnagain Arm, Alaska Railroad] [Dena'ina territory]

.160 – [from card catalog: Beluga Point, between Rainbow and Potter along Turnagain Arm, Alaska Railroad] [Dena'ina territory]

.161 – Grandview Skier's Paradise [from card catalog: along Alaska Railroad between Moose Pass to Portage Grandview]

.179 – [from card catalog: Ninilchik, Alaska. Homer (sic) 1952.] [Bird's eye view of community, Russian Orthodox Eastern Church on hilltop at distance. Likely Dena'ina territory]

.191 – [from card catalog: Fairbanks, 1948] [automobiles parked along Chena River, street and buildings in background including Northern Commercial Company and Pioneer Hotel. Tanana territory]

.201 – [from card catalog: Fairbanks 1948 and shoe shine boy] [Portrait of an Indigenous youth in a plaid coat beside a totem. Tanana territory. See also .202]

.202 - [From back:] Portrait of an Alaskan Native shoe shine boy next to a totem pole outside a building in Fairbanks, 1948. [Indigenous youth leaning against a building in Tanana territory. See also .201]

.203 – [from card catalog: Cook Inlet Historical Society trip to Goose Bay, August 14, 1955] [group photo outside Teeland's Shopping Center and the Wasilla Roadhouse Cafe. Dena'ina territory]

.206 – [from card catalog: Cook Inlet Historical Society Goose Bay trip August 14, 1955. Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Ellexson, former residents of Knik] [an elderly couple seated on steps outside building, likely Dena'ina territory]

.215 – [from card catalog: Cook Inlet Historical Society Goose Bay trip, 14 August 1955 at Knik] [historical society members gathered along beach and near a building at distance, an Indigenous person rests against a small boat on shore. Dena'ina territory]

.216 – [from card catalog: Alaska Gulf and Oil Co. drilling rig near Knik. Cook Inlet Historical Society trip, 14 August 1955] [Dena'ina territory]

.218 – [from card catalog: Stamp Club, 1954] [Club members around an elaborate table setting, postage stamp displays in background. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.219 – [from card catalog: Stamp Club, 1954] [people seated in chairs while others look at postage stamp displays along wall. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.227 – [from card catalog: Grandview, 1944] [two skiers posed on a slope and touching hands. Possibly Dena'ina territory]

.233 – [from card catalog: Arctic Valley Skiing 2-26-1950] [view of winter slopes, building at left and structures at right]

.234 – [from card catalog: Arctic Valley Skiing 2-26-1950] [view of winter slopes with skiers at left, buildings and Quonset huts at midground]

.242 – [from card catalog: Miller House 1951] [exterior view of log building with a flagpole and firewood nearby]

.247x - [from card catalog: Anchorage Docks, Susitna 6-1-49] [view along Knik Arm, railroad tracks at foreground and docks at distance. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.257 - [from card catalog: vacation, June 1946, fishwheel] [person sitting beside fishwheel on a river, cargo truck stopped beside river bridge at distance]

.258 - [from card catalog: vacation, June 1946, fishwheel] [people fishing near fishwheel on a river]

- .259 - [from card catalog: vacation, June 1946, fishwheel] [person fishing from a fishwheel on a river]
- .260 - [from card catalog: Copper Center Lodge and Mount Drum, 1954] [log cabins in foreground, Mt. Drum at distance Ahtna territory, Tl'aticae'e (Copper Center)]
- .261 - [from card catalog: Copper Center Lodge and Mount Drum, 1954] [view down unpaved road of a large building and smaller log cabins nearby. Ahtna territory, Tl'aticae'e (Copper Center)]
- .262 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .263 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .264 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .265 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .266 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .267 - [from card catalog: Wolfe Trail Lodge 9-21-52 (could be Kenai Peninsula)]
- .268 - [from card catalog: Eureka Lodge 10-10-1948] [exterior view of Eureka Road House log building]
- .269 - [from card catalog: Gunsight Mountain 10-10-48 (near Eureka Lodge), Glenn Highway]
- .270 - [from card catalog: Gunsight Mountain 10-10-48 (near Eureka Lodge), Glenn Highway]
- .271 - [from card catalog: Sheep Mountain Lodge] [automobiles parked outside log buildings]
- .272 - [from card catalog: Sheep Mountain Lodge] [automobiles parked outside log buildings]
- .273 - [from card catalog: Anchorage to Mosquito Inn? 9-16-49 Spring Creek Lodge] [possibly Dena'ina territory. Exterior view of log cabin with sign that reads "Spring Creek Lodge Coffee Shop"]
- .274 - [from card catalog: Palmer School Dormitory or ARRC's Dormitory and official housing of Palmer Colony. c. 1939-1942. Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.] [Dena'ina territory]
- .276 - [Spirit houses in an Indigenous cemetery. Dena'ina territory, Idlughet (Eklutna)]
- .277 - [Spirit houses in an Indigenous cemetery. Dena'ina territory, Idlughet (Eklutna)]
- .280 - [exterior view of Williwaw Lodge]
- .281 - [from card catalog: Mendeltna 9-7-52] [Mendeltna Lodge exterior. Likely Ahtna territory.]
- .282 - [from card catalog: Mendeltna 9-7-52] [Fishwheel in a river. Likely Ahtna territory.]
- .283 - [from card catalog: Mendeltna Creek 9-7-52] [Likely Ahtna territory.]
- .284 - [from card catalog: Mendeltna 9-7-52] [Fishwheel beside "Mendeltna Lodge" sign, likely Ahtna territory]
- .299 - [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad - Curry] [exterior of Curry Hotel and Depot. Dena'ina territory]
- .300 - [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad - Curry] [two people walking across tracks toward two people seated on a railing beside a train at Curry Hotel and Depot. Dena'ina territory]
- .301 - [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad - Curry] [people outside the Curry Hotel and Depot. Dena'ina territory]
- .302 - [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad - Curry] [people outside the Curry Hotel and Depot. Dena'ina territory]
- .303 - [from card catalog: Alaska Railroad - Curry] [train at the Curry Hotel and Depot. Dena'ina territory]

.304 - Alaska Railroad - Curry to Cantwell. Swinging bridge at Curry [Hotels, Taverns, Susitna River] [Circa mid 1940s to mid 1950s. Milepost 248.5. Dena'ina territory.]

.305 – Alaska Railroad - Curry to Cantwell. Swinging bridge at Curry [Hotels, Taverns, Susitna River] [Circa mid 1940s to mid 1950s. Milepost 248.5. Dena'ina territory.]

.306 – Alaska Railroad - Curry to Cantwell. Swinging bridge at Curry [Hotels, Taverns, Susitna River] [Circa mid 1940s to mid 1950s. Milepost 248.5. Dena'ina territory.]

.307 - [from card catalog: June - (Indigenous) girl taken at Nov. 11 parade in front of J. Vic Browns Jewelers, Anchorage] [Indigenous youth wearing a kerchief, parka, and fur mukluks on sidewalk outside of building. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)] [At AFN 2026, identified as possibly 1940s Fairbanks]

.308 - [from card catalog: Mary Powers, a Kobuk (Indigenous person), taken in front of Post Office, Anchorage] [an Indigenous Elder (possibly Inupiaq) from Laugviik / Kobuk, posed with a group of young adults in front of the Federal Building on Fourth Avenue. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)] [At AFN 2026, identified as possibly 1940s Fairbanks]

.309 - [from card catalog: Mary Powers, a Kobuk (Indigenous person), taken in front of Post Office, Anchorage] [an Indigenous Elder (possibly Inupiaq) from Laugviik / Kobuk, in front of the Federal Building on Fourth Avenue. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.310 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member holding a camera, studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.311 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.312 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.313 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.314 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.315 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.316 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.317 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.318 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.319 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.320 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.321 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.322 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.323 – [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.324 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.325 - [from card catalog: Camera Club beards 2-18-46 McDougal] [social club member studio portrait. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.859 - Providence Hospital - Anchorage, Alaska [from back:] "before widening & paving & cutting birch trees!" [hospital exterior. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

Guide written: 2010

Guide rewritten: 23 February 2026