

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

TITLE: CIHS Pratt

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1965.015

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1907-1949

Extent: 1 folder, 13 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): L.H. Pedersen, Orville George Herning, C.B.M.

Administrative/Biographical History:

Nothing is known about the donor Mrs. Lynne Pratt at the time of processing.

Orville G. Herning arrived in K'enaikatnu (Knik) in 1900. He was hired by the Klondike & Boston Company to open a trail to the Willow Creek Mining District. In 1910, the population was over 100 and by 1914-1915 around 500 people lived in Knik, and a couple hundred people lived in the surrounding area. When the railroad decided to bypass Knik and go through what is now Wasilla, the people moved their businesses to Wasilla and to Anchorage.

Circle was established in 1893 as a supply point for goods shipped up the Yukon River and then overland to the gold mining camps. Early miners believed the town was located on the Arctic Circle, and named it Circle. By 1896, before the Klondike gold rush, Circle was the largest mining town on the Yukon, with a population of 700. The town was virtually emptied after gold discoveries in the Klondike (1897) and Nome (1899). A few hearty miners stayed on in the Birch Creek area, and Circle became a small, stable community that supplied miners in the nearby Mastodon, Mammoth, Deadwood and Circle Creeks. Mining activity continues to this day.

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists primarily of photos of scenes from K'enakatnu (Knik) and Circle, Alaska. The photographs of K'enakatnu include boat day, Knik Commercial Club, a fourth of July ladies nail driving contest, and the riverboat Jane. Photographs of Circle include photos of the Circle Springs Hotel and Circle. The collection also includes photographs of the Fairview Hotel and the Aurora Borealis, Homer, and Ophir City. Photographers of the collection include L.H. Pedersen, Orville George Herning, and M.C.B. The collection is housed in the photo file collection.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous 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:

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Preferred Citation:

CIHS Pratt, Anchorage Museum, B1965.15

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to Cook Inlet Historical Society by Mrs. Lynne Pratt in November 1965.

RELATED MATERIALS

- B1963.016 Marie Silverman Collection
- B1963.x.031 Willow Creek Mining District Records
- B1964.017 Herning Potter Collection
- B1967.001 O.G. Herning Collection
- B1982.052 Robert Wheatley Collection
- B1994.003 Nellie Brown Collection
- B2014.013 Tron Anderson Collection
- B2023.011 Patricia A. Volkman Slide Collection

SUBJECTS

Business enterprises – Alaska – Sources
Circle Hot Springs (Alaska)
Dena'ina
G. W. Palmer General Merchandise (Knik, Alaska)
Herning, Orville George
Homer (Alaska)
K'enakatnu (Alaska)
Knik (Alaska)
Matanuska (Alaska)
Mines and mining – Alaska – Sources
Shipping – Alaska – Sources
Wasilla (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

- .3 – pamphlet, “The Matanuska Valley”
- .4 – pamphlet, “Anchorage Fur Rendezvous 1949”
- .5 – program, “8th Annual Matanuska Valley Fair, Palmer, Alaska, Sept. 4-5-6, 1948.” Front, “Wasilla Public Library. All profits from the sale of these meals go into the Building Fund for a new library.” [program with an image of a log cabin with a sign that reads, “Wasilla Public Library.” See B1963.16.42]
- .6 – menu, “Tanana Restaurant, Circle, Alaska”
- .7a – postcard, Circle, Alaska, May 19, 1945 [view of ice chunks in the foreground with buildings in the background]
- .7b – postcard, Circle, Alaska, May 19, 1945 [view of ice chunks in the foreground with buildings in the background. Same as .7a]
- .7c – postcard, Circle Springs Hotel – Circle Springs, Alaska [building with ice covering trees and snow on the ground]
- .7d – postcard, Circle Springs Hotel – Circle Springs, Alaska [buildings with parked automobiles and greenhouse in the foreground]
- .7e – [view of aurora borealis or northern lights with buildings to the right including one with a sign that reads, “Fairview Hotel”]
- .7f – postcard, Boat day, Knik, Alaska [several boats at docks with shoreline to the right. Same photo B1967.1.141, 152]
- .7g – [missing] postcard, The Jane of Knik, Alaska. O.G.H. [Orville George Herning, photographer]
- .7h – postcard, Ladies nail driving contest, July 4, 1914, Knik, Alaska. O.G.H. [crowd in front of buildings, one with sign that reads, “C.W. Palmer.” Orville George Herning, photographer]

.7i – postcard, July 4, 1941, Knik, O.G.H. [crowd in street with people holding United States flags and others hanging on buildings. Orville George Herning, photographer. Same as B1963.16.34]

.7j – postcard, Knik Commercial Club, Knik, Alaska [montage of 5 small photos, advertisement. See also B1971.71.22 and .23]

.7k – postcard, Homer, Alaska 1907. CBM [view of docks with people standing next to stacked bags. Buildings and Tika Kaq (Kachemak Bay) in the background]

.7l – postcard, Main St., Ophir City, Innoka, Alaska, C.B.M. [street view with individual standing on sidewalk next to log building with sign that reads, “Pioneer.” Other signs on log buildings in the background include, “California Pool” and “General Mechan[t], Cigars ...”]

Guide written: February 12, 2025