

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

TITLE: CIHS Henton

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1965.011

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1964

Extent: 1 item

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Ward W. Wells

Administrative/Biographical History:

Fred Henton was born in 1889/1890. He travelled Alaska as a mail-carrier, game guide, prospector, explorer, and dog musher. Henton became a stowaway on the S. S. "Corwin" in 1905, arriving in Nome at just 15 years old. In 1913, he took charge of the 42 sled dogs travelling with the Stefansson Canadian Arctic expedition. He was on board the whaling ship "Karluk" when it became trapped in ice, and was one of few crewmembers to survive the ordeal. He had a lodge at Kanatak, and charted Kodiak Island on foot, a project which took 9 years. From 1942-44, Henton ran the Van Glider Hotel in Seward. Later in his life, he established a lodge at the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers on the Kenai Peninsula. Fred Henton lived to be at least 74 years old, as recorded in 1963, but his exact date of death is unknown.

Ward Wallace Wells, Jr. (1920-1982) was born in Rich Lake, Wisconsin. He arrived first in Juneau, Alaska with his first wife Virginia in 1946 and moved to Anchorage the following year where he opened a photography studio on Fifth Avenue and G Street. Wells was active for the next thirty years, shooting commercial activities throughout the state, taking portraits, and building an extensive file of stock photographs, including images of business activities, new buildings, portraits, Fur Rendezvous, the Anchorage Symphony, and the 1964 earthquake. He

also traveled extensively for work and captured many significant images of communities in northern and western Alaska. His work was featured in national magazines like Life and Time, as well as in the press and on national television. He maintained an active studio and was well known throughout the state until his death in 1982.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of one mounted portrait of Fred A. Henton. The photographer is Ward W. Wells.

Arrangement: Not applicable.

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.

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Preferred Citation:

CIHS Henton, Anchorage Museum, B1965.11

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Ward W. Wells to the Cook Inlet Historical Society in October 1965. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

Processing Note

Museum accession number B1965.13. Guide created from access file inventory and old finding aid. The photograph was not physically consulted at the time of writing.

RELATED MATERIALS

B1965.018 Fred Henton Collection

B1983.091 Ward W. Wells Collection

SUBJECTS

Henton, Fred A. (1889-1963)

Wells, Ward W. (1920-1982)

Guide written: March 5, 2025