

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Chloe Nielsen, Archivist

**TITLE:** Herning Potter Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1964.017

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: c. 1898-1957

Extent: 0.2 cubic feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Herning, O.G. (Orville George), 1868-1947; Potter, Louise, 1895-1993

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Orville George (O.G.) Herning was born July 30, 1863, in Eyota, Minnesota. As a young man Herning made his living as a rural schoolteacher until 1888 when he decided to go into the produce business with D.W.A. Roby in Naugatuck, Connecticut. In 1894, Herning married Martha A. Rogers of Naugatuck and had a son, G. Stanley Herning. In 1897 Herning was recruited by the E.C. Davis Company (Boston Brokers) to lead a group of men to the Alaska Territory to prospect gold. He then began managing an exploration company in Tyonek, Alaska. Herning eventually settled in Wasilla where he managed the Klondike and Boston Gold Mining & Manufacturing Co. While living in Wasilla he also established the Knik Trading Post. Henning's diaries span the almost 50 years he spent living and working in these areas. Beginning in 1898, Mr. Herning drew, published, and sold three different maps of the Upper Cook Inlet mining area showing trails, geographical features, and mineral areas. He was also a photographer and wrote articles for various newspapers and trade magazines.

Charlotte Louise Potter (1895-1993) first visited Alaska in 1946 and became a frequent traveler to the state between 1956-1985. She spent some time as a schoolteacher in Wasilla and "published many books and articles about her family and travel, about communities she'd lived in and about Alaska wildflowers."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "End of the Trail: Louise Potter," *Alaska Magazine*, February 1994, 111.

#### Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of 10 folders of materials collected and created by Louise Potter during her travels to and time spent in Wasilla, Alaska, including items pertaining to O.G. Herning. Folders 1 and 2 contain publications about Matanuska Valley. Folder 2 contains collected documents pertaining to Wasilla and the Matanuska Valley. Folders 4 and 5 contain notes and documents pertaining to O.G. Herning's diaries. Folders 6 and 7 contain collected ephemera. Folders 8 and 9 contain a manuscript written by Louise Potter. Folder 10 contains photographs and indexes meant to be included in said manuscript.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist, possibly 2001.

#### **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use. Item F10.32 restricted due to sensitive content.

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 hold copyright to all items created by Potter. All published items are in the public domain. The Anchorage Museum does not hold copyright to photographs, and other unpublished items, not created by Potter. Permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation: Herning Potter Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1964.17

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

##### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Louise Potter to the Cook Inlet Historical Society on September 3, 1964. CIHS then transferred collection to the Museum.

#### **RELATED MATERIALS**

O.G. Herning Collection, B1967.001

Diaries of Orville G. Herning, in Knik and Wasilla, Alaska, 1898-1947, F909 .H5 A1 1963a

## SUBJECTS

Herning, O.G. (Orville George), 1868-1947  
Potter, Louise, 1895-1993  
Indigenous Alaskans  
Native Alaskans  
Alaska Highway  
Boats and boating  
British Columbia  
Knik Arm (Alaska)  
Log cabins  
Maps  
Matanuska River Valley (Alaska)  
Mines and mining  
Mountains  
Roads  
Susitna River Valley (Alaska)  
Wasilla (Alaska)  
Yukon

Detailed Description of the Collection

### **F1 – “Matanuska Valley Memoir”**

Johnson, Hugh A. and Keith L. Stanton, *Matanuska Valley Memoir: The Story of How One Alaskan Community Developed, Bulletin 18* (Palmer: University of Alaska, Alaska Experiment Station), July 1955.

### **F2 – “Matanuska Valley Alaska”**

Books, Al, *Matanuska Valley Alaska* (Palmer: Matanuska Valley Chamber of Commerce), 1965.

### **F3 – Mat-Su Valley/Wasilla Documents**

- .1 – “Students in the Wasilla High School, 1953-54,” [list of students, divided by class, and teachers]
- .2 – “Students in Wasilla High School 1956-1957,” [list of students, divided by class, and teachers]
- .3 – “From THE HUB – the 1940 Yearbook of the Wasilla High School,” [one-page explanation of why the Wasilla High School yearbooks is named “The Hub”]
- .4 – “Statement of Condition: Matanuska Valley Bank,” [pamphlet listing the Matanuska Valley Bank’s resources and liabilities], December 31, 1958
- .5 – “Knik River (Lake George) Flood Crests and Discharge,” from the “Valley Cooperator,” [newspaper clipping], c. 1960

- .6 – From the secretary’s book of the Knik Musical, Literary, and Dramatic Association, known in its later days as the M.L.D. Club [3 pages of typed notes, including meeting minutes and member lists], c. 1914-1920
- .7 – Copied from THE KNIK NEWS, March 6, 1915 issue, pub. at Knik, Alaska.. Newspaper in possession of Walter Teeland, Wasilla [list of individuals with homesteads near Knik]
- .8 – Copied from THE KNIK NEWS, issue of April 10, 1915 – “MANY OUTFITS IN THE BROAD PASS” [list of individuals with outfits in the Broad Pass Country]
- .9 – Copy of material in a small red-covered booklet, undated, published by the Knik (Alaska) Commercial Club [3 typed pages covering mining, coal, agriculture, fishing, climate, and transportation in Knik]
- .10 – Copy of a hand written – pencil – apparently preliminary copy – of a letter in old Knik trunk at Teeland’s Store, Wasilla. Copied by LP [Louise Potter] July, 1959
- .11 – Quartz Location [copy of a notice of location of 1500 ft mineral deposit in the Knik Mining District], 1918
- .12 – Photostat of Herning’s hand drawn map – He later enlarged it & had printed copies made, copyright 1906

**F4 – “The First Thirty Hears in the Life of O.G. Herning...”**

Rough Draft complete with inserts “The First Thirty Years in the life of O.G. Herning of Knik and Wasilla” by Louise Potter [21 pages with inserts], c. 1950s

**F5 – Notes on Herning diaries (F909 .H5 A1 1963a)**

- .1 – Notes about the IDITAROD TRAIL – found in the Herning diaries [3 pages of typed notes covering 1911-1922]
- .2 – OIL, Notes about oil as found in the Herning Diaries [2 pages of typed notes covering 1900-1944]
- .3 – RAILROADS, Notes made from Herning Diaries – where he had mentioned railways in Alaska [3 pages of typed notes covering 1902-1940]
- .4 – The Alaskan Diaries of Orville George Herning of Knik and Wasilla, 1900-1947 [1 typed page of subjects indexed in the typed manuscript]
- .5 – The Alaskan Diaries of Orville George Herning of Knik and Wasilla, 1900-1947 [1 typed page of subjects not indexed in the typed manuscript]
- .6 – Master Copies to use for Xerox, Notes: Early History of Wasilla, Early History of Knik, Materials from Herning Diaries [16 typed pages, plus 2 pieces of ephemera dated 1918]

**F6 – Assorted News Clippings**

- .1 – *The Knik New*, March 6, 1915 [2 pages of newspaper]
- .2 – *Seward Daily Gateway*, May 13, 1929 [2 pages of newspaper]
- .3 – “New Highway, Like Old Iditarod Would Open Up Interior Alaska,” *Frontiersman Palmer* [newspaper clipping], undated
- .4 – 13 Clippings from the Herning Collection. 1898 Misc.
- .5 – Footnote for II-9

- .6 – *The Alaska New*, November 15, 1901 [front page of newspaper, in 3 pieces, including map of Mining Property of Klondike & Boston Co. and other parties at Willow Creek]
- .7 – Parallels Worth Comparing [broadside from W.A. Klondike & Boston Co. including article titled “We Sent Capt. O.G. Herning with Men, Horses and Supplies in June Last to Make Preparations to Install Our Hydraulic Plant.”], c. 1901

**F7 – Misc. Artifacts/Materials**

- .1 – Duck Feathers from Beluga 1898 [7 purple mallard feathers]
- .2 – Big Lake and the Matanuska Valley “Alaska’s Playground” [brochure with map of Big Lake and Wasilla, businesses around Big Lake, and contact information to purchase land in Wasilla]
- .3 – [2 typed letters to Mrs. Dolenc of Wasilla from Richard Hyer of Warner, NH, dated December 3, 1968, and February 21, 1969]
- .4 – [Hand-written receipt to Post-Intelligencer Publishing Company totaling \$24.50], January 26, 1899
- .5 – [Handwritten note from O.G. Herning on Hotel Brunswick letterhead]
- .6 – [Invoice no. 3175 from Lowman & Hanford Stationary and Printing Co. indicating receipt of 12 Alaska maps by O.G. Herning to retail for 50 cents each, costing the printing company 25 cents each], February 4, 1899
- .7 – Statement of Cost to Compile and [?] the Johnson & Herning Map [list of costs and prices on Hotel Brunswick letterhead], March 10, 1899
- .8 – [Statement of receipt of 24 Johnson & Herning maps, to be paid for when sold for 10 cents per map, on MacDougall & Southwick Co. letterhead], March 7, 1899
- .9 – [Statement of receipt of \$2.00 from O.G. Herning, signed by Wilse Map and Blue-Print Company], January 28, 1899]
- .10 – [Receipt for 500 Jonson & Herning maps on H.W. Moulton letterhead], January 31, 1899
- .11 – C.H. Voll Assayer and Chemist [price list of metals]
- .12 – J.S. Kimball Co. Purser’s Check [first class ticket aboard Steamer Dirigo], April 12, 1899

**F8 – “Alaska Highway Idyll” – Original on Onionskin**

*Alaska Highway Idyll*, 1956 [81-page typed manuscript with handwritten notes]

**F9 – “Alaska Highway Idyll” – Photocopy**

[Photocopy of F8 manuscript]

**F10 – Photographs with “Alaska Highway Idyll”**

- .01-.41 4x5” black-and-white prints, undated
- .1 – Packing the car to leave Vermont [VW Bug with driver door and trunk open parked on grass, road in foreground, house and trees in background]
- .2 – The Famous Milepost 1 [Dawson City milepost, Dawson Co-Operative Union, and cars]
- .3 – Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Mile 1, Alaska Highway [4 adults and 1 child, all facing off-camera, New Palace Hotel & Café in background]

- .4 – Grain elevators, Dawson Creek [Canadian Pacific Railway train, Alberta Pacific Grain structures, and cars]
- .5 – Homesteader’s road, Slender aspens [Aspen trees, trail, and clouds]
- .6 – Spruces along the Highway, Bull-dozed remainders from road building [Spruce trees]
- .7 – Pipe-line supports crossing the Peace River
- .8 – Minaker Valley from Trutch Mountain – Mile 179 [trees, clouds]
- .9 – My car at Trutch Lodge, Mile 200 [car from .01 parked in front of lodge structure]
- .10 – Indian Head Mountain, Mile 358
- .11 – Descent from Summit into McDonald Creek Valley, Mile 396
- .12 – Farm animals at Toad River Lodge, Mile 422 [horses and chickens by barn with fence, trees and mountains in background]
- .13 – Muncho Lake, Mile 463
- .14 – Liard River Rapids, Mile 538
- .15 – Lower Post, Liard River, Mile 620
- .16 – Yukon Public Campground (Typical of all of them), Mile 632 [cabin surrounded by trees, truck to the left]
- .17 – Watson Lake Store (with winter fuel supply) Mile 635 [Watson Lake Trading Post, pile of logs right of building]
- .18 – Into the Rockies, Mile 706 [gravel road flanked by trees, mountains and clouds in background]
- .19 – Restaurant, Rancheria Lodge, Mile 710 [log building with trees]
- .20 – Teslin Bridge, Mile 804 (Village on the point) [trees in foreground, body of water and bridge in midground, town and mountains in background, clouds covering the sky]
- .21 – Lake Teslin, Mile 818 [gravel road, lake, mountains, clouds]
- .22 – Marsh Lake Lodge, Mile 883 [two men and three children standing by entrance of large log structure]
- .23 – Cabin at Marsh Lake, Mile 883 [cabin with “Dunmoovin” sign and antlers on wall, trees next to and behind cabin]
- .24 – Beached passenger steamers, Yukon River, Whitehorse [railroad tracks, buildings, boats on land]
- .25 – Whitehorse, Y.T. [Yukon Territory], and the Yukon River, Mile 917 [town of houses behind body of water]
- .26 – Passenger station, Whitehorse [White Pass & Yukon Route railroad station]
- .27 – Downriver freight on docks at Whitehorse [White Pass cargo]
- .28 – Historical Museum, Whitehorse [Yukon Historical Society, MacBride Museum]
- .29 – Anglican Cathedral of the Yukon, Christ Church, Whitehorse
- .30 – “Old Timers”, Whitehorse [log cabins by gravel road]
- .31 – New Yukon Territorial Building, Whitehorse [people walking outside building]
- .32 – [restricted due to sensitive content]
- .33 – A glacial river in August, the Donjek, Mile 1132
- .34 – Snag Creek, Mile 1208
- .35 – Yukon-Alaska border marker, Mile 1221 [Alaska sign]
- .36 – U.S. Customs and Immigration Office, Tok Junction, Alaska, Mile 1314 [car next to office]

- .37 – Log Cabin Lodge, 29 miles below Tok, Glenn Highway [car from .01 and .09 parked by cabin]
- .38 – Presbyterian Church and Hospital, Glenallen, Alaska
- .39 – [three buildings, a car, and a tractor seen through trees]
- .40 – [Trading Post, Matanuska Valley Farmers Co-Op Association, man climbing stairs, front of car in foreground]
- .41 – End of the line, my 12x20 cabin in Wasilla, Alaska
- .42a – Susitna, Alaska [Post Office, H.W. Nagley buildings, people, boats], b+w print
- .42b – [negative of .42a]
- .43a – A.C. Co. and Wheeler & Co., Sunrise City [people standing with pack animals outside buildings with chopped trees], b+w print
- .43b – [negative of .43a]
- .44a – Valdez & Pioneer Hotel, Potato Field, Knik 104 [.45 and .46 together], b+w print
- .44b – [negative of .44a]
- .45 – Valdez [people, crates, hay bales, boat, lake, and snow-covered mountains], b+w print
- .46 – Pioneer Hotel Potato Field, Knik, Alaska, 1904 [man and woman standing in potato field], b+w print
- .47a – Palmer’s stores at Knik [two dogs and one man in foreground], b+w print
- .47b – [negative of .47a]
- .48a – Farming at Knik / 04 [two men steering two horses on farm], b+w print, 1904
- .48b – [negative of .48a]
- .49a – Dog team [four men with dog team outside log building], b+w print
- .49b – [negative of .49a]
- .50a – Happy day on the Susitna, 1898 [group of Indigenous adults and children, two standing, the rest sitting], b+w print
- .50b – [negative of .50a]
- .51a – Mathison Mining & Mercantile, Hope, c. 1914 [one woman and two men standing outside mercantile building], b+w print
- .51b – [negative of .51a]
- .52a – group photograph – unidentified [seven men standing, six men sitting], b+w print
- .52b – [negative of .52a]
- .53 – [Russian Greek Church, Kenai, Alaska], b+w print
- .54 – Sitka [people walking on dock, U.S. Warehouse and other buildings], b+w print
- .55 – Juneau [City Brewery Office, Log Cabin Soda Works, barrels of bottles outside cabin], b+w print
- .56 – Tower on left, same as Soda Works, Juneau [six men and dog, one pulling wagon, walking outside clock tower], b+w print
- .57 – [negative of .53-.56 together]
- .58 – Pictures – for Highway Misc. [list of photograph captions]
- .59 – Geographical Index – Highway Misc. [4-page list of locations]
- .60 – [photocopy of .58]
- .61 – [photocopy of .59]

Guide written: October 2022