# Guide to the Carrie M. McLain Papers, ca. 1899-2000

Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Nome, Alaska

Accession Number 2006.2

**Acquisition Information** Donation by Carrie M. McLain, 1967; multiple

donations by Caroline McLain Reader, 2006.

**Extent** approx. 3 linear feet (5 legal size document boxes, 2

postcard boxes, 1 flat oversize box, 1 oversize

map folder)

**Restrictions** None.

**Processed by** Amanda Demeter, April 2016. Latest revision April

19, 2016.

### **Biographical Note**

Caroline "Carrie" Mary Stipek was born in Astoria, Long Island City, New York in January 1895 to Kristiny Stipek (née Varousove) and Vaslov William Stipek. Her father left for the Klondike gold rush in 1897, returning to New York twice over the next eight years. After Kristiny's death in 1905, William came to retrieve Carrie, her three sisters Barbara, Anne, and Helen, and brother Frank. They traveled by train from New York to Seattle, Washington, where they took the S. S. *Victoria* to Nome, Alaska.

William was unsuccessful in his mining attempts and ultimately established a painting and wall papering business in Nome. Carrie graduated as salutatorian from Nome High School in the seven-student class of 1913. She became a teacher, completing additional schooling in Tacoma, Washington and accepting teaching positions in Teller and Haycock, Alaska. The former was where she met Arthur McLain, whom she married in 1923. Arthur, too, was a prospector, which led them to return to Nome. They had three daughters, Marjorie, Elizabeth, and Caroline, and a son, Arthur. Arthur Sr. died in 1940. To support her family, Carrie worked briefly as a welfare agent, then became Nome's first woman city clerk in 1943. She held this position for 14 years.

Carrie was known for her extensive knowledge of the region's history, and in the late 1950s she began to collect items of historical value and to promote Nome history to the public. In 1965, a small amount of property was donated for a temporary museum, and in 1967, a shared space was funded by the state for the museum and public library. She published two books, *Gold Rush Nome* (1969) and *Pioneer Teacher* (1970), a memoir.

Carrie died in Palmer, Alaska in 1973. The city renamed the museum the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum in her honor.

(biography adapted from Box 1, Folder 1, Biographical and autobiographical notes)

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection is comprised of documents, correspondence, publications, ephemera, and visual materials relating to the life, career, and research interests of early and longtime Nome resident Carrie M. McLain. The bulk of the collection is photographs, with a small number of family photos and portraits of McLain. Most of these photos are historical views of Nome and greater Alaska, pulled from a variety of sources including amateur snapshots, images from publications, and prints and real photo postcards from significant photographers of the area such as the Lomen Brothers, Frank H. Nowell, and H. G. Kaiser. Featured subject areas include early residents, views of Nome; dog teams and sled racing; mining in Nome and the Seward Peninsula; Alaskan native peoples of the mainland, King Island, and Little Diomede; reindeer herding; other notable people such as city officials, doctors, teachers, explorers, mushers. Other materials include publications and clippings collected by Carrie on Nome and Alaska history and events, documents on the museum, and personal files.

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

### Series 1: Biographical files

Two sketches, one an autobiographical account of Carrie's early life in New York and travel to Nome, and another a biography written by her daughter Caroline McLain Reader for the museum's reopening.

#### Series 2: Correspondence

Correspondence is arranged into two subseries of outgoing and incoming mail. The majority is outgoing mail to Carrie's friend Rose Janke over the last 13 years of her life. Incoming mail includes correspondents Constance Seppala and German Ambassador Heinrich Knappstein, with some pieces addressed to Caroline Reader.

#### Series 3: Professional files

A small accrual of materials related to Carrie's two jobs after her husband's death. Monthly handwritten notes document Carrie's activities as a welfare agent for approximately a year. City clerk documents include paperwork relating to taxes assessed during World War II and some ephemera.

#### Series 4: Personal files

A few items from Carrie and Arthur Sr.'s personal life, with a poem by Carrie and documents from World War I belonging to Arthur.

### Series 5: Alaska history subject files

Arranged alphabetically by subject, this series includes small publications such as souvenir

booklets from events, magazines and newspapers, article reprints; typescript stories and diaries; paper ephemera such as menus, stock certificates; newspaper and magazine clippings. Some oversize clippings and periodicals are housed in box 3.

### Series 6: Carrie M. McLain Museum records

Administrative files, clippings, and other documents related to the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, from its renaming in honor of Carrie in 1973. Includes materials on the dedication to Carrie, the museum's reopening in 1987, the reorganizing of the Kegoayah Kozga Association to manage the museum and library, city memos, and various museum exhibits and events. The majority of these files belonged to Caroline McLain Reader, Carrie's daughter, who served on the Kegoayah Kozga board.

### Series 7: Photographs

The bulk of the collection, photos include some personal shots, with the majority being historical views of Nome and Alaska collected by Carrie. Photographs are arranged physically by size, with prints 5x7 in. and smaller in boxes 4 and 5, prints between 5x7 and 9x12 in. in boxes 6-8, and prints larger than 9x12 in. (oversize) in box 3. Photographs are arranged within boxes in item number order and are loosely grouped by subject. Featured subject areas include early residents, views of Nome; dog teams and sled racing; mining on the Seward Peninsula; native peoples of the mainland, King Island, and Little Diomede; reindeer herding. A subject index to the photographs is included as Appendix B to this finding aid; some photographs have been indexed under more than one subject. Subject information can also be searched to an even greater degree of detail in the PastPerfect database. Appendix A provides box location information at the photo item level.

## **Collection Contents**

## **Series 1: Biographical files**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	Contents
1	1	Biographical and autobiographical notes, undated

## **Series 2: Correspondence**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Outgoing
1	2	Pioneers of Alaska (1 letter), 1959 June 17
1	2	Rose Janke (45 letters), 1960-1973
		Incoming
1	3	Constance Seppala (1 letter), 1967 January 27
1	3	German Ambassador Heinrich Knappstein (1 letter and signed
		photograph), 1967 August 8
1	3	Constance Seppala (1 letter, to Caroline [Reader]), 1968 April 11
1	3	Iver Olsen's daughter (1 letter), 1970 March 2

### **Series 3: Professional files**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	Contents
1	4	Welfare Agent – Case notes, ca. 1940 City Clerk
1	5	Wartime School Tax, 1945
1	5	Sample ballot with election results and letterhead, ca. 1951

### **Series 4: Personal files**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	Contents
1	6	Poetry, ca. 1932
1	7	A. J. McLain – Government Thrift Card and Liberty Loan Subscriber Honor Emblems, ca. 1918
1	8	Miscellany – Clippings, ephemera, publications, 1905-1941
Cabinet drawer		Oversize miscellany, ca. 1908-1940s

## Series 5: Alaska history subject files

<u>Box</u>	Folder	Contents
		Alaska – general description, history, and news
1	9	Marie Drake, <i>Alaskana</i> , 1938
1	9	Bernard Rosecrans Hubbard, One Hundred Pictures of Little Known
		Alaska, 1935
1	9	U.S. Dept. of the Interior, General Information Regarding the
		Territory of Alaska, 1917 March
1	10	Clippings, ca. 1916
8	1	Oversize clippings, 1907-1916
		Alaska native peoples
1	11	Henry B. Collins, Jr., Archeology of the Bering Sea Region, 1935
1	11	Clippings and ephemera, ca. 1910s-1977
		Diaries and first-hand accounts
1	12	Typescript copy of diary – Arthur Olsen, 1906 July 10-1907 June 7
1	12	"The Odyssey of the Millers who Wandered from the Home Station at
		M.P. 17 to the Great Land in the Far North Where the Midnight
		Sun Shines in Splendor Over Our Largest State Alaska," F. S.
		Miller, ca. 1964
1	12	"We Don't Live in Igloos" (on Fairbanks, Alaska), ca. mid-1900s
1	12	James S. Pitcher, "Sourdough Jim Pitcher: The Autobiography of a
		Pioneer Alaskan," 1985
		Exploration
1	13	Clippings, ca. 1909-1925
		Gold Rush and mining
1	14	Stock certificates, clippings, and ephemera, ca. 1907-2000
		Government
1	15	U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to
		the Secretary of the Interior, 1946
1	15	Beauty and Industry: Official Inaugural Program (inauguration of
		Governor William Egan), 1971
1	15	Clippings and ephemera, ca. 1920s-1992
		Industry and agriculture
1	16	Alaska Bureau of Publicity, Progress of Alaska since Purchase: How
		Its Industries Began, 1917
1	16	Clippings, 1916-1965
		Nome
2	1	Della Z. Goshaw, Alaskan Verses, 1953

2	1	Fred Lockley, Alaska's First Free Mail Delivery in 1900, ca. 1958
2	1	Louis Jacobin, Nome and Northwestern Alaska, ca. 1945
2	1	Nome Mining Gazette, 1903 September
2	2	Clippings, ca. 1907-1995
2	3	Ephemera and historical notes, ca. 1906-1973
8	2	Oversize ephemera and clippings (incl. museum news), 1927-1995
		Notable people (deaths, birthdays, anniversaries)
2	4	Clippings, ca. 1933-1968, undated
8	3	Oversize clippings, ca. 1907-1960
		Periodicals
2	5	Alaska magazine, 1951 Summer, 1975 January
2	5	The Alaska Pioneer, Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 1, 1912 June
2	6	Alaska Sportsman, 1960 February; 1965 September, October
2	6	The Eskimo Bulletin (photocopy), 1897 July
2	6	The Midnight Sun (photocopy), 1905 June
2	6	Nome Mining Gazette (photocopy), 1903 September
8	4	The Nome News (copy), 1899 October 9
8	4	The Nome Nugget, ca. 1966
2	6	Pioneer Scout (photocopy), 1923 November 3, 1924 [April 19?]
	-	Sled dog races
2	7	Souvenir of Second Annual All-Alaska Sweepstakes, 1909
2	8	Esther Birdsall Darling, Nome Kennel Club, <i>The Great Dog Races of Nome</i> , 1916
2	8	Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association, <i>The Alaskan Champion</i>
		Dog Musher, 1956
2	8	Fur Rendezvous and Dog Mushers' Annual, 1957
2	8	Baldy of Nome paw print "autograph," undated
2	9	Arctic Club, <i>Nome Dog Derby</i> , 1959, 1960, 1961
		Statehood
2	10	Alaska Constitutional Convention, 1955-1956
2	10	Alaska Day: Sitka, Alaska, Oct. 18, 1959
2	10	Alaska Statehood Committee, Statehood for Alaska! A Report on Four
		Years of Achievement, 1953
2	10	Clippings, 1958-1959
		Travel and transportation
2	11	White Pass & Yukon Route, A Hand Book of Vacation Trips in Alaska
		and the Yukon, ca. 1937
2	11	Territorial Board of Road Commissioners, Alaska Traffic Laws and
		Revised Regulations Thereunder, 1949

2	11	Rand-McNally, Indexed Pocket Map and Shippers' Guide of Alaska,
		1919
2	11	Alaska Steamship Co. ephemera, 1933-1934, 1952
2	12	Clippings (aviation, ships, etc.), ca. 1916-1972
8	5	Oversize clippings, ca. 1916-1930s
		Wartime
2	13	Documents, ephemera, clippings, 1944-1945
Cabi	inet drawer	Oversize subject file materials – maps, clippings, ca. 1909-1972

### Series 6: Carrie M. McLain Museum records

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	Contents
3	1	Kegoayah Kozga Association – establishment and meeting minutes, 1986- 1987
3	2	Museum reopening, 1987
3	3	Administrative files, 1973-2000
3	4	Display case ideas (notes), undated
3	5	Clippings and ephemera, 1979-1997

## **Series 7: Photographs**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	Contents
3	6-16	Large format items (between 5x7 and 9x12 in.) no. 6-374 Subjects include: Carrie M. McLain and family; Nome; notable and identified people.
4	1-14	Large format items no. 375-1089  Subjects include: Dog racing; Eskimo and other native peoples; Gold Rush and mining; Nome; notable and identified people.
5	1-13	Large format items no. 1090-1483  Subjects include: Aviation; reindeer; notable and identified people; Candle, Nome. Also includes a set of proof sheets, likely images from Carrie's books, and some handwritten notes with photo identification.
6		Small format (5x7 in. or less) items no. 1-750 Subjects include: Boats and ships; Carrie M. McLain and family; dog racing; Eskimo and other native peoples; Gold Rush and mining; hunting and fishing; notable and identified people such as the Seppala family, explorer Knute Rasmussen, early Nome residents; Cape Prince of Wales,

Council, Diomede Islands, King Island, Nome, Teller, York. See index in Appendix A for detailed information on locating photographs.

7 Small format items no. 752-1489

Subjects include: Aviation; boats and ships; dog racing; Eskimo and other native peoples; Gold Rush and mining; hunting and fishing; notable and identified people; storms, floods, and fires; Candle, Nome.

8 6-8 Oversize format (over 9x12 in.) items no. 473-1477

Subjects include: Boats and ships; dog racing; Nome and other Alaska locations; reindeer.

# **Appendix A: Photograph Index by Location**

Box	Item Nos.
4	375-376, 378-391, 456-461, 471-472, 487-494, 539, 542-552, 633, 731, 738, 751, 758-796, 837-847, 883-901, 1020-1028, 1076-1089
5	1090-1110, 1177-1187, 1211, 1217-1225, 1281- 1358, 1383-1394, 1417, 1461-1473, 1478-1483
6	1-5, 7-8, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-25, 27-29, 31, 39-48, 53-57, 65, 68-69, 71-78, 80-89, 97-126, 131-152, 155-208, 210-302, 356-357, 377, 392-422, 426-430, 462-470, 476-486, 496-538, 540-541, 553-632, 634-730, 732-737, 739-750
7	752-757, 797-836, 849-1019, 1029-1075, 1111- 1176, 1189-1210, 1212-1280, 1310-1338, 1360- 1382, 1395, 1397-1460, 1484-1489
8	473-475, 495, 848, 902, 1188, 1226, 1309, 1359, 1474-1477

# **Appendix B: Photograph Index by Subject**

Subject	Item Nos.
Animals see also: Dog teams and sledding; Hunting and fishing; Reindeer	308, 502, 574-575, 948-949, 968, 1280, 1282, 1303, 1363-1364, 1366-1367, 1369, 1371, 1374, 1377, 1379, 1382-1383, 1385-1388, 1392-1394, 1481
Artifacts	241, 290, 538, 733, 796, 911-912, 950, 952, 1391, 1445-1449
Aviation	1189, 1191-1202, 1206-1215, 1217, 1221-1223, 1484-1489
Boats and ships	91, 96, 177, 187, 189, 198, 295, 321, 326-327, 385, 421, 449, 473, 503-504, 506, 509, 515, 519, 522, 526-527, 534, 537, 544, 546, 548, 552, 556, 583, 602, 605, 677, 680, 705-707, 709, 711-712, 717, 720-724, 726, 729-730, 778, 784, 786-790, 797-838, 840-844, 846-854, 859-864, 868-871, 881-883, 886-888, 890, 893-896, 898-901, 904-910, 913, 964-965, 967, 969-970, 972, 976-977, 983, 1140, 1144, 1157-1158, 1161, 1169, 1178, 1180-1181, 1184, 1188, 1216, 1281, 1330-1331, 1411, 1423, 1438, 1451, 1454, 1460, 1468, 1473, 1477
Dog teams and sledding	75-80, 82-87, 106, 149-150, 172, 193, 195, 212, 215, 246, 288, 340, 392, 431, 438, 446, 450, 461, 465-468, 576, 583, 627, 708, 838, 872, 874, 933, 937, 985, 1007, 1022, 1106, 1175, 1227-1230, 1232-1233, 1236-1238, 1240-1241, 1243-1266, 1268, 1271-1274, 1277-1279, 1281, 1283-1285, 1287-1302, 1304-1305, 1307-1309, 1378, 1480
Exploration and explorers	91-96, 595, 1190
Fourth of July	42-44, 170, 179-180, 182-184, 194, 243, 287, 341- 342, 345, 404, 406-407, 412-413, 416-417, 422, 475, 1405, 1478

Gold Rush and mining	46-52, 146, 175, 192, 202, 219, 339, 429, 437, 439, 447-449, 451, 460, 759, 845, 916-932, 934, 998-1006, 1008-1009, 1011-1019, 1024-1038, 1040-1060, 1062-1063, 1065-1079, 1081-1102, 1104-1105, 1107-1110, 1146, 1418-1420, 1444, 1461-1463
Hunting and fishing	108, 518, 528, 568, 570, 572, 580, 602-603, 681- 684, 702-705, 707, 713-719, 725, 735, 753, 791, 1153, 1360-1362, 1365, 1370, 1372-1373, 1375- 1376, 1378, 1380-1381, 1384, 1390, 1402
Locations	
Canada	53, 165, 204, 1458
Candle	988, 991-993, 1069, 1469-1470, 1479-1483
Cape Prince of Wales	622-623, 643, 663-664, 705, 710, 1329
Council	123, 427-428, 430-434, 438-447, 449-455, 458-461, 539, 1297
Diomede Islands	487, 568-573, 576-616, 699, 782-783
Fort Davis	39-41, 288, 292-293, 329, 1206-1207, 1211
King Island	496-497, 499-508, 511, 521, 633-634, 689, 757, 788, 914
Kuzgamapa Hot Springs	382, 384-391, 393-397, 400-402, 1398
Nome	42-45, 51, 56-67, 88, 121-122, 126, 131-132, 135, 137-141, 143-145, 147-148, 150, 152-157, 161-164, 170, 176, 178-186, 188-189, 194, 196-200, 205-210, 212-215, 217-218, 222, 224, 228, 230-

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Nome (cont.)

759, 773, 775, 777, 789, 797, 806-808, 812, 818, 823, 828-829, 833, 838-839, 842, 844, 849, 851-853, 855-866, 868-871, 873-879, 884-885, 888-891, 895-897, 903, 905, 913, 915, 925, 942, 951, 963, 966, 973, 985, 994, 1000-1001, 1006-1009, 1011-1012, 1014, 1016, 1019, 1021-1024, 1026-1027, 1029-1032, 1035-1038, 1042, 1044, 1046-1047, 1052, 1056-1060, 1062, 1064-1066, 1070, 1072, 1074-1075, 1077, 1080-1081, 1083, 1085-1086, 1088-1091, 1093, 1100-1103, 1107-1108, 1110-1114, 1117-1135, 1137-1145, 1148-1150, 1154-1168, 1170-1173, 1177-1180, 1182, 1185-1191, 1195-1198, 1203-1205, 1212-1213, 1215, 1217-1225, 1229, 1232, 1234-1236, 1238, 1240, 1243, 1245-1248, 1251-1255, 1257-1268, 1271, 1277-1278, 1286, 1291, 1293-1296, 1298-1299, 1301-1302, 1306, 1395, 1399-1401, 1403, 1405, 1408-1409, 1411-1413, 1421-1422, 1424-1429, 1431, 1433-1437, 1478, 1484-1489

Shishmaref

Siberia

Teller

York

People

Carrie M. McLain and family

Native peoples

(incl. Alaska native, Siberian, Sami)

300, 523-525, 946-947

544, 560-561, 563-567, 681, 776, 996, 1452, 1460

169, 404, 406-407, 409, 412-417, 419, 421-425, 690, 730, 774, 941, 945, 980, 1174, 1347, 1442

619-621, 624-625, 1097

1-38, 72-73, 88, 90

126, 290, 416, 498, 500-501, 505, 509, 512-515, 517-520, 522-523, 526-538, 540-542, 546-567, 569-570, 572, 574-575, 582, 588-590, 592-594, 599, 602, 604-605, 607-610, 615, 617, 628-629, 632, 635-639, 642-644, 646-674, 676-679, 685-687, 691-695, 697-705, 709-711, 713-715, 717-723, 725-727, 729, 731-757, 760-777, 779-789, 791, 793, 911, 913, 935, 938-939, 941-947, 981-983, 996, 1229, 1319, 1322-1323, 1329, 1331-1332, 1334, 1337, 1340, 1347, 1358, 1368, 1438

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Reindeer

403, 510, 953-962, 981, 1310-1318, 1320-1329, 1333-1336, 1338-1359

Serum Run

463-469

Storms, floods, and fires

178, 289, 432, 868, 991-992, 1112-1113, 1117-1119, 1122-1128, 1132-1134, 1137-1145, 1149-1150, 1154-1155, 1157-1161, 1163-1173, 1177-1179, 1185-1186, 1188, 1436, 1482

Unidentified people and places

54-55, 68, 97, 99, 119, 130, 133-134, 136, 142, 151, 166-168, 171, 173-174, 191, 201, 203, 211, 220-221, 225-227, 229, 234, 264, 269, 275, 307, 315, 319-320, 334, 343, 357, 363, 367, 380, 398, 408, 420, 426, 456-457, 472, 543, 630, 640-641, 645, 675, 688, 696, 728, 758, 795, 867, 880, 892, 936, 971, 974-975, 984, 986, 995, 997, 1020, 1039, 1061, 1115-1116, 1147, 1152, 1183, 1226, 1242, 1269-1270, 1275-1276, 1406-1407, 1415-1416, 1430, 1432, 1456-1457, 1471, 1474-1476

Miscellaneous Alaska views (incl. Barrow, Deering, Hooper Bay, Juneau, Ketchikan, Point Hope, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, St Michaels, Unalaska) 158-160, 291, 294, 302, 306, 383, 405, 411, 418, 435-436, 792, 794, 902, 940, 978-979, 987, 989-990, 1136, 1151, 1389, 1397, 1404, 1414, 1439-1441, 1443, 1450, 1453, 1455, 1459, 1464-1467, 1472