A guide to the G. Frank Williss postcard collection, 1925-1930

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P02-026

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2015, National Park Service

Title: G. Frank Williss postcard collection
Date: 1925-1930
Identifier/Call Number: P02-026 (SAFR 24254)
Creator: Williss, G. Frank
Physical Description: 12 items.
Repository: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department
Building E, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Abstract: The G. Frank Williss postcard collection, 1925-1930, (SAFR 24254, P02-026) is comprised of photographic postcards mainly of fishing activities in Alaska. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.
Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department
Language(s): In English.
Access
This collection is open for use unless otherwise noted.
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Processing Note
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Please cite the title and collection number in any correspondence with our staff.
Preferred Citation
[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], P02-026 (SAFR 24254), G. Frank Williss postcard collection, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Acquisition Information
SAFR-01777
The collection was donated by G. Frank Williss in 2003. He found the photographs in a book that had belonged to his paternal grandfather.
Historical or Biographical Note
PRINZ SIGISMUND (built 1902; steamship) was built in Rostock, Germany. She was seized by the U.S. government during World War I, renamed GENERAL W.C. GORGAS, and used as a troop transport. In 1926, GENERAL W.C. GORGAS was purchased from the Panama Railroad Company by Libby, McNeill & Libby for use in their cannery business. She returned to troop transport service during World War II.
Collection Scope and Content
The G. Frank Williss postcard collection, 1925-1930, (SAFR 24254, P02-026) is comprised of photographic postcards mainly of fishing activities in Alaska. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.
Contains photographic postcards of Bristol Bay gillnetters, the Libby, McNeill & Libby vessel GENERAL W.C. GORGAS (built 1902; freighter), and landscapes in Alaska, 1925-1930. There are 12 unique photographic images (black-and-white
photographic postcards, 3.5 x 5.5 in.). The photographs relate to the Alaska fishing and canning industry.

**Item list:**

1. GENERAL W.C. GORGAS (built 1902; freighter) anchored, starboard bow view.
2. Steamship deck view, possibly aboard GENERAL W.C. GORGAS, in icy waters. A group of 10-13 men are gathered at the railing on the port side.
3. Steamship deck view while underway, possibly aboard GENERAL W.C. GORGAS.
4. Steamship docked at an unidentified wharf. View as seen from aboard the vessel looking toward a Libby, McNeill & Libby building. A large group of men and women are gathered on the wharf.
5. Bristol Bay gillnetters tied to one another while under tow.
6. Towboat towing Bristol Bay gillnetters.
7. Bristol Bay gillnetter under sail, starboard broadside view. Two men are on board.
8. Bristol Bay gillnetter under sail, port bow view. Two men are on board.
9. View across the water of a landscape in the distance. A freighter is underway and buildings are on the shore on the left.
10. View across the water of a landscape in the distance.
11. Drift ice.
12. Drift ice, some with sea birds on top.

**Collection Arrangement**

No arrangement due to the small size of the collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Gillnetting
- Salmon fisheries--Alaska
- Merchant ships
- General W.C. Gorgas (built 1902; freighter)
- Libby, McNeill & Libby
- Alaska
- Photographic postcards