



FINDING AID

BOYD M. MCKEOWN PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM 1916-1917

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HISTORY

Boyd McCulley McKeown was born in Texas, the eldest child of a Methodist circuit riding preacher and his wife. He held a variety of jobs in his early years including working cowboy, rodeo contestant, and serviceman in France during World War I. He earned a B.A. from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, Texas) in 1917, where he also played football. He attended the University of Partiers in France in 1919, graduated with an M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1922, where his thesis focused on "A Partial Survey of the Colleges of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Texas" and took graduate classes from the University of Colorado in 1925. McKeown taught in rural Texas schools for four years, served as principle for the Odessa (Texas) High School in 1917, Superintendent of the Knox City (Texas) Public Schools from 1919-1921 and 1922-1923, and then was appointed Dean of Education for McMurray College in Abilene, Texas. The author of numerous publications pertaining to the Methodist Church, he later headed the Division of Educational Institutions for the Board of Education of the Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

One of McKeown's early jobs was as tour guide in Yellowstone National Park, probably for the Shaw & Powell Camping Co. Working in the summers of 1916 and 1917, he was stationed at Canyon and Mammoth. McKeown's time in Yellowstone was considered a highlight and he returned many times in later years. His son, Boyd McKeown, Jr., recalls: "[Dad] loved the canyon, and he once received a \$100 tip (1916 dollars) for taking a group to the bottom and back. I feel, however, that Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces were his favorite. During what he knew would be his last trip to the park, he spent time with the terraces as though to mourn the loss of the vibrant colors they once displayed."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

BOYD M. MCKEOWN PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM 1916-1917

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 194361

VOLUME 0.2 LF

DESCRIPTION Photograph album of Boyd M. McKeown who worked as a tour guide in Yellowstone National Park, 1916-1917.

Photograph album of Boyd M. McKeown, who worked as a tour guide, probably for the Shaw & Powell Camping Co., in 1916 and 1917. The album consists of a black leather cover, with a variety of small photographic prints glued to black paper pages. Most images are labeled. Although the bulk of the images date from 1916, images in the back of the album are of a different size and include an image of the Mammoth Lodge thought not to be in place until 1917.

The images depict the activities of the camp employees, called "savages", as well as visiting tourists, wildlife, landscape, and geothermal features. The photographs of employees are labeled with either first names or home states, which may have been nicknames. Several are also labeled "rotten loggers" (rotten logging was a slang term for dating--sitting out a few dances on a rotten log). Images show the employees, both male and female, fishing, hiking Red Rock and Uncle Tom's trails, horseback riding, feeding the bears, dancing, putting on a masquerade, splitting wood, and loading luggage. There is one image of a tour guide, complete with megaphone. There are also images of a tour, organized by the Frank Reedy Travel Service, probably because Frank Reedy worked for the McKeown's alma mater, Southern Methodist University. Tour images depict groups travelling both by wagon and stagecoach as well as by automobile; 1916 and 1917 are pivotal transitional years for transportation in the Park.

Buildings and other structures include the Northern Pacific

Railway depot in Gardiner (Mont.), Roosevelt Arch, Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful swimming pool, Canyon Hotel, tents at Geysir (Old Faithful) Camp, Mammoth Lodge, Lake Hotel, and the Milan Arch Bridge. Wildlife shown includes black bears, pronghorn, elk, and fish.

Landscapes are numerous and depict Gibbon, Rustic, Crystal, Tower, Upper, and Lower Falls; Virginia Cascades; Yellowstone River, and Trout Creek. One Upper Falls image includes the platform and one view of the Lower Falls shows the staircase. There are also views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, many taken from Inspiration Point, as well as Sulphur and Roaring Mountains, Mt. Washburn, Bunsen's Peak and Devil's Slide, Silver and Golden Gates, Wine Glass Rock, the Hoodoos, Fossil Forest, Obsidian Cliff, the Knotted Woods, and the Continental Divide. There are also several images of a summer snow storm.

Geothermal features include Cupid's Cove, Liberty Cap, and Jupiter, Hymen, and Cleopatra Terraces at Mammoth. The Norris and Upper Geysir Basins are shown and include Crater, Jewel, Lone Star, Riverside, Giant, Grotto, Punch Bowl, Oblong, Sponge, Castle, Old Faithful, Pencil, and Spouter Geysers. There are also views of Mammoth Paint Pots, Biscuit Basin, Handkerchief Pool, and Sulphur Spring.

ORGANIZATION

The album remains in its original order.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Boyd McKeown, Jr., in July 2010.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

| File Unit Nbr | Title |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 01 | Photograph album |