

Old ACC Records Reproduced at UA

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The collection of Alaska Commercial Company Records dating back to 1868 are soon to be filed and classified in the University of Alaska Archives.

The nineteen crates of dusty, old, folded documents and journals were indexed several years ago by Dr. Wendall Oswalt, Professor of Anthropology at U.C.L.A. and who is with the University of Alaska summer program.

The records consist of old log books, petty journals, supply inventories, fur inventories and sales, accounts and correspondence.

The Alaska Commercial Company operated many sub-stations scattered throughout Alaska. Each station keeper was required to keep a daily record of weather, ships that came and went, unusual events, and major transactions.

These daily accounts when read today in conjunction with the inventories and sales provide a comprehensive picture of the daily life, business transactions, economy, and fur populations of the times.

The collection provides a wealth of resources for anthropologists interested in ethnological studies of early Alaskan settlements and for biologists studying fur populations.

Already the source has been tapped for research. Over three thousand pages of data on Tyonek and Ellamina stations have been reproduced for the personal research of Dr. Charles Van Stone of the Field Museum in Chicago.

To prepare the collection for public accessibility will be an arduous and dusty task. All old staples, brads, pins, and rubber bands must be removed, and each document filed in a preservative file box with the other documents of that station and period.

Paul McCarthy, head of the University Archives, hopes to have the project underway within the next few weeks.