

Historical Background:

[Brief history of Anchorage – when founded, etc., then lead into growth of post war years.] during these post war years, Anchorage experienced an economic boom and rapid population growth. As population grew so did the city, resulting in the construction of many new businesses along Fourth and Fifth Avenues. It was also around this time that the Glenn highway was completed, connecting Anchorage with the Richardson and Alaska Highways.

Bibliographical Background:

It is believed that Sidney Hamilton was an Englishman who first came to Alaska in the fall of 1900. The nephew of the general manager of the North Star Dredging Company, Hamilton came to join the company's expedition to establish a gold dredge at Lone Goose Lake. He eventually ended up in Anchorage, where he lived with his wife Eve from 1938 to 1963. During this time Sidney was employed as a photographer at Hewitt's Drug and Photo Shop. While Sidney took the majority of photos in this collection, Eve also contributed a number of downtown Anchorage shots. In addition, Eve hand tinted photographs, including some that may have been taken by Sidney.

At the time of Hamilton's employment, Hewitt's was owned by Lu Liston who purchased the store with Francis Bowden in 1948. Hewitt's stood downtown at the north east corner of Fourth and E, before it was demolished following the 1964 earthquake. Despite this however, Hewitt's continued to operate at other locations and was sold by Liston in 1978. While under the ownership of Liston, Hewitt's produced and sold hand tinted Sydney Laurence photo reproductions.

Scope and Content note:

The Sydney H. Hamilton collection consists of XXXX photographs and negatives which depict the city of Anchorage and the Cook Inlet area from the mid 1940's to mid 1950's. Images in this collection depict exteriors of retail and commercial businesses, various street scenes, Anchorage Post Office, Providence Hospital, Federal Building, Anchorage Harbor, Anchorage Station, Knik Arm Apartments, and Mt. Susitna. Also

included are images of various lodges and recreation areas and other Alaskan towns such as Juneau, Seward, Curry, and Fairbanks.