

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

**TITLE:** CIHS Bowden-Liston

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1965.002

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1915-1930

Extent: 24 photos, 2 folders

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Hewitt's Photo Shop

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Francis C. Bowden was born on December 26, 1903, in Roslyn, Washington. He moved to Alaska in 1928 to work for the Curry Hotel on the Alaska Railroad and He worked for drug stores in Cordova and Anchorage in the years that followed. In 1946, Bowden was elected Mayor of Anchorage and served two terms. In 1948, Bowden became part-owner of Hewitt's Drugstore with Lu Liston. Bowden died in April 1972 at Anchorage Community Hospital.

Lucien Liston was a longtime Alaskan businessman and artist, and has been described as the last of a long line of drug store photographers who provided images for sale to the traveling public. He was born in 1910 in Eugene, Oregon, and came to Alaska in 1929, living first in Juneau, where he met and married Edna Reindeau. He served with the Alaska Territorial Guard in 1942-1943. In 1944, he relocated to Anchorage and in 1948, he and Francis Bowden purchased Hewitt's Drug Store on Fourth Avenue in downtown Anchorage. The Bevers & Pfeil building was damaged in the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and Hewitt's relocated to Spenard. Liston sold the store in 1978; he died in 1993.

Hewitt's Drug Store was an old-school drug store and newsstand that also had a lunch counter. A purveyor of photographic supplies and services, the store provided passport and

portrait photographs, did a brisk business in postcards, and sold copies of paintings by Alaskan artists such as Sydney Hamilton. The proprietors often purchased photographs from Anchorage residents and others, adding them to Hewitt's stock image library. Some of the prints in the collection include notations on locations and events provided by the photographer for captioning purposes. Some of the stock images are copies of older work by well-known photographers such as the Lomen Brothers and E. A. Hegg. The collection also includes original work by photographers who had major careers of their own, including Sydney Laurence and Bradford Washburn. Evidence from the collection suggests that Hewitt's had also purchased the library of Bragaw's Studio, probably when Robert S. Bragaw, Jr., left Alaska in 1944.

#### Scope and Content Description:

The Bowden – Liston collection consists of 24 photographs and 1 newspaper. This collection includes an aerial view of Anchorage, a fire in Anchorage in 1922, Army B10 Bombers, an Eskimo mother with child, the fire station in Anchorage, the first plane built in Anchorage, scenes of Fourth Avenue, the KFQD Building, Merrill Field, sledge dogs, and the first snowfall on Fourth Avenue of Anchorage in 1915. Also in the collection is a photograph of Wiley Post and Will Rogers at Fairbanks. Photographers of the collection include Sydney Laurence and Hewitt's.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist.

### **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

#### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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#### Preferred Citation:

CIHS Bowden-Liston, Anchorage Museum, B1965.2

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to the Cook Inlet Historical Society by Francis Bowden and Lu Liston in 1965.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

B1963.012 KNIK Pioneer Audio Reels

B1989.016 Lu Liston Collection

## **SUBJECTS**

Bowden, Francis C., 1903-1972

Merrill, Russel, 1894-1929

Aeronautics—Alaska

Air pilots—Alaska

Airplanes—Alaska

Anchorage (Alaska)

Anchorage Air Transport, Inc.

Chevak (Alaska)

Hewitt's Drug Store (Anchorage, Alaska)

Hewitt's Photo Shop

Merrill Field Airport (Anchorage, Alaska)

## Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – The First Snowfall in Anchorage, Oct-8<sup>th</sup> 1915 [view of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Anchorage, October 8, 1915]

.2 – Anchorage, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915, Sydney Laurence Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. 1915, #1221 [view of 4th Avenue in downtown Anchorage, October 8, 1915. Same as B1963.16.5]

.3 – R.R. Station, Anchorage, Alaska. [railroad depot in Anchorage, Alaska, possibly 1918]

.4 – Anchorage Fire, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1922 [view of downtown Anchorage with people in the street and a building on fire at center, February 7, 1922]

.5 – KFQD Building, Anchorage, Alaska [building on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E Street, NE corner, Anchorage, Alaska (1924-1926)]

.6 – #2, #259, Hewitt's Photo Shop, C-2, Anchorage, Alaska [aerial view of downtown Anchorage. 2 copies]

.7 – #259, Hewitt's Photo Shop, Anchorage [aerial view of Anchorage looking from west to east, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at left along golf course, 1925]

.8 – Fire station, Anchorage, Alaska [same as B1982.46.26]

.9 – No. 46, Anchorage, Alaska. Hewitts Photo. #1229 [Anchorage Post Office. Fourth Avenue, Anchorage]

.10 – Anchorage, Alaska [street view of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Anchorage with parked automobiles and Chugach Mountains in the background]

.11 – Hewitt's Photo Shop, Anchorage, Alaska [building on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Bragaw's on awning. Individual on roof is John Oden, local mason and builder of fireplaces]

.12 – Hewitt's Photo Shop, Anchorage, Alaska. Merrill (Air) Field, 1931 [view of Merrill Airfield with Dghelishla (Mount Susitna) in the background]

- .13 –Aviation Field, Anchorage, Alaska. Back, Curtis Jenny plane on Park Strip, possibly Noel Wien (left). 1<sup>st</sup> flight from Anchorage to Fairbanks via the railroad, 1924. On top: Bill Yunker. [three individuals posed with an airplane with tail number T4656]
- .14 – [oversized] First plane built in Anchorage, 1925?
- .15 – Back, “Anchorage, on Golf Course (present Park Reserve.) Passengers on inside. Lu Liston 735. [view of Russ Merrill’s airplane. Lettering on the airplane reads, “Anchorage, A.A.T. Inc., C-194, Travel Air.”]
- .16 – Anchorage, Alaska. Back, “Russ Merrill for whom Merrill Field is named.” [view of airplane with building and Chugach Mountains in the background. Lettering on the airplane reads, “Anchorage No. 1, Travel Air, MFG. Co. Inc, Wichita, Kansas, C-194”]
- .17 – Merrill Field, 1934 [aerial view of Merrill Field with buildings and parked airplanes on the ground]
- .18 – Stinson A. Trimotor (First in Alaska). “W” on hangar stands for Woodley Airways, Art Woodley’s firm which became Pacific Northern Airlines, which in turn became Western Airlines in 1967. At Merrill Field. [view of parked airplane in front of hangar]
- .19 – Wiley Post and Will Rogers at Fairbanks [view of airplane with floats on river with tail number NR12283]
- .20 – Aviation Eilson Turning-up, Fairbanks, Alaska. Back, “DeHavilland.” [view of airplane with skis in the snow with a group of people standing to the right]
- .21 – [oversized] Army B10 Bombers, 1934. 5 planes, under Hap Arnold, arrived from Bolling Field, Washington, D.C. Hewitt’s photo shop, Anchorage, Alaska.
- .22 – [missing][Indigenous] mother in fur coat with child
- .23 – [dog sled team in harness with musher at back and passenger in the sled]
- .24 – [Cup’ik individuals], Chevak, Alaska. Hewitt’s 41 [two Cup’ik individuals with a dog and box in the background with label “Pearl Oil”]

Guide written: 2003

Updated: January 30, 2025