

## Steve Homer Collection

Finding Aid prepared by Jessie K. Hopper

June 14, 2017

**Repository:** Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center

**Creator:** Homer, Steve Larsson

**Title:** Steve Homer Collection

**Dates:** 1918-1989 (Bulk Dates: 1944-1977)

**Quantity:** 2 Cubic Feet

**Abstract:** Steve Homer was a transportation pioneer who lived at points in his life in Haines, Alaska. These materials document his roles in the founding of the Chilkoot Motorship Lines which would eventually become the Alaska Marine Highway System. They also highlight his continuing interest in transportation around the region. The collection also contains his U. S. Naval Reserve papers and his papers from his time with USAID in Vietnam.

**Collection ID:** 2002.090

### Biographical History

Steve Homer was born on January 24, 1918, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He was raised in nearby Fairfield, graduating from high school in 1936. He enlisted in the Navy reserves in 1936 and began active service in 1940, serving in Iceland and then New Zealand and Guadalcanal. He remained in the Reserves until 1973, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and serving as an instructor at the US Naval Reserve Officer's School. He was a part of the Veteran's Alaska Cooperative Co., which bought the Chilkoot Barracks (Fort William H. Seward) and was later one of the five owners of Port Chilkoot Company. He launched the first ferry service in Alaska with the M/V Chilkoot, serving Skagway, Haines, and Juneau. He ran the ferry from 1948 until 1951, when he sold it to the Territory of Alaska. The idea ultimately became the Alaska Marine Highway System. Homer remained interested in transportation, running Mar-Air Bus and Yukon Stage Lines. He also worked with the US Agency of International Development in Vietnam from 1967-1972, serving as an economic advisor and writing a treatise on the fishing industry. He died on October 1, 1989.

## **Collection Scope and Notes**

The Steve Homer Collection is comprised of materials collected by Steve Homer during his life in the Pacific Northwest. The bulk of the collection relates to his interest in transportation, particularly in relation to the Chilkoot Motorship Lines, which would become the Alaska Marine Highway system. The collection also contains a large grouping of U.S. Naval Reserve Records as well as personnel records from his time in USAID.

## **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into the following series

Series 0001 - Personal

Series 0002 – U.S. Navy

Series 0003 – Chilkoot Motorship Lines

Series 0004 - Businesses

Series 0005 – USAID/Vietnam

Series 0006 - Photographs

Series 0007 - Books

Photographs have been moved to Photo collection Storage. Books have been separated to the research library. All dates are in American format – mm/dd/yyyy.

## **Restrictions**

## **Access Points**

## **Administrative Information**

### **Acquisition Information**

The collection was donated by Steve Larsson Homer in 1985.

### **Processing Information**

The collection was processed and catalogued by Jessie Hopper in 2017.

## **Associated Information**



Container List

**Series 0001 – Personal – 23 folders, .83 linear feet**

Box	File	
001	001	Signe Homer IDs
001	002	Steven A. and Signe Homer Funeral and Probate Records
001	003	Steve Homer IDs
001	004	Childhood Materials
001	005	University Records
001	006	Resumes and Job Applications
001	007	Real Estate Contracts
001	008	Masons – Fidelity Lodge
001	009	Masonic Books
001	010	Order of Elks
001	011	Correspondence
001	012	Correspondence – Personal
001	013	Correspondence – Personal
002	001	Calendar
002	002	Calendar
002	003	Calendar
002	004	Calendar
002	005	Notebooks
002	006	Writings
002	007	Tax Returns
002	008	Financial Records
002	009	Miscellaneous
002	010	Steve Homer Will and Estate Papers

**Series 0002 – U.S. Navy – 10 folders, .58 linear feet**

Box	File	
003	001	U.S. Navy – Liberty Ports
003	002	U.S. Navy – Correspondence Course
003	003	U.S. Navy – Awards and Certificates
003	004	Naval Paperwork
003	005	Naval Reserve Officer's School – Course Catalog
003	006	Naval Reserve Officer's School – Staff Rosters
003	007	Naval Reserve Officer's School – Instructor's Materials
003	008	Naval Reserve Officer's School – Awards and Certificates
003	009	U.S. Navy – Official File
003	010	U.S. Navy – Retirement Paperwork

**Series 0003 – Chilkoot Motorship Lines - 12 folders, .29 linear feet**

Box	File	
003	011	Prospectus for Chilkoot Motorship Lines

003	012	Bills of Sale and Partnership Agreements
003	013	Correspondence
003	014	Libel Case vs. M/V Chilkoot
003	015	Financial Documents
003	016	Coast Guard Public Hearing on Marine Industry
004	001	Rates and Schedules
004	002	Legislative Action on the Ferry System
004	003	Libel Case against <i>Juneau Empire</i>
004	004	U.S. Merchant Marine/U.S. Coast Guard
004	005	Ferry Development
004	006	Newspaper Clippings
004	007	Blueprints
004	008	Map

**Series 0004 – Businesses – 11 folders, .2 linear feet**

Box	File	
004	009	Port Chilkoot Materials
004	010	Mar-Air Bus Co. Records
004	011	Japanese Trading Co.
004	012	Marine Commuter Corporation
004	013	Blueprint – Marine Commuter Co.
004	014	Plan for State Assistance for Port Development
004	015	Bare Bones Charter Agreement
004	016	Articles of Incorporation – Alaska Vessel Owners and Operators Association
004	017	Yukon Stage Lines
004	018	Yukon Stage Lines
004	019	Sale of Van from Yukon Stage Lines

**Series 0005 – USAID/Vietnam – 5 folders, .2 linear feet**

Box	File	
005	001	Prospectus – Development of the Fishing Industry of South Vietnam
005	002	Travel and Pay Documents
005	003	Personnel Actions and Evaluations
005	004	Correspondence and Reports – Vietnam
005	005	Blueprint and Drawing of Rach Gia Port in Vietnam

**Series 0006 – Photographs**

2002.090.0006.0001 - From back of picture - "Sept. 10/85 Atlin Lake - Mt. Minto looking North." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0002 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Atlin River Looking S.W." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0003 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Nares Lake Shallows." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0004 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Deep Bay - Taku Arm." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0005 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Conrad." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0006 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Carcross." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0007 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Conrad." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0008 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Emerald Lake." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0009 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Taku Arm Narrows just North of Golden Gate Looking West" Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0010 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Ben-My-Chree" Photo taken from air

2002.090.0006.0011 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Tagish Lake looking East Taku Arm in background Windy Arm to right." Photo taken from air

2002.090.0006.0012 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Taku Arm looking North from Golden Gate." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0013 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Looking East from Carcross Valley - Taku Arm in background." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0014 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Wann River Edgar Lake." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0015 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Florence Range Taku Arm." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0016 - From back - "Sept 10/85 Graham Inlet looking East." Photo taken from air.

2002.090.0006.0017 - Photograph of the Marine Commuter II.

2002.090.0006.0018 - Photograph of a Japanese boy. Identical to 2002.090.006.0019-20 Photographs were contained in an envelope with the address: N. Mochida No. 76 Tateno, Nakaku Yokohama Japan The envelope also has handwritten Japanese characters written on the front.

2002.090.0006.0019 - Photograph of a Japanese boy. Identical to 2002.090.006.0018 and 2002.090.006.0020 Photographs were contained in an envelope with the address: N. Mochida No. 76 Tateno, Nakaku Yokohama Japan. The envelope also has handwritten Japanese characters written on the front.

2002.090.0006.0020 - Photograph of a Japanese boy. Identical to 2002.090.006.0018-19. Photographs were contained in an envelope with the address: N. Mochida No. 76 Tateno, Nakaku Yokohama Japan The envelope also has handwritten Japanese characters written on the front.

2002.090.0006.0021 - Passport photo of Steve Homer. Photo is inserted into a passport folder from Kinko's.

2002.090.0006.0022 - Photograph of Steve Homer. Dated August 29, 1974 on the back. Stamp on back - "Hougen's Ltd. 305 Main Street Whitehorse, Yukon I certify this to be a true photograph of \_\_\_\_\_ Guarantor"

2002.090.0006.0023 - Photograph of Steve Homer in uniform standing next to a car.

2002.090.0006.0024 - Photograph of Steve Homer in uniform standing in front of a house. Looks like photograph was cut out from a larger one. The year 1944 is visible on the back.

2002.090.0006.0025 - Black and white photograph of a woman.

2002.090.0006.0026 - Photograph of local apartment houses in Reykjavik (Iceland). Description written on back.

2002.090.0006.0027 - Photograph of houses (6, 7, 8, and 9) in Officer's Row that were restored by Steve Homer. Fort Seward.

2002.090.0006.0028 - Photograph of "Steve's bus."

2002.090.0006.0029 - Photograph of Steve Homer walking down a street in Vietnam.

2002.090.0006.0030 - Photograph of Steve Homer and Lowell Knutson. Dated April 1989

2002.090.0006.0031 - Photograph of 3 military ships: LCT 917, LCT 168, LCT 916, maneuvering near Banika. Dated April 1945.

2002.090.0006.0032 - Photograph of Steve Homer in uniform sitting on a couch. Photograph is attached to a blue peice of cardstock with a Christmas greetings message on the back. Another photograph of an older man holding a dog and a cat is adhered to the opposite side.

2002.090.0006.0033 - Portrait photograph of Steve Homer in uniform. Dated 1942 on back.

2002.090.0006.0034 - Photograph of a Vietnamese worker, appears to be building a foundation.

2002.090.0006.0035 - Photograph of Steve Homer, Mimi and Ted Gregg on ferry for the 25th anniversary sailing. Dated June 3, 1988.

2002.090.0006.0036 - Photograph of Steve Homer next to a Christmas tree at Euston Ct. home. Christmas 1983.

2002.090.0006.0037 - Photograph of of Lowell Knutson and Ted Gregg on Steve Homer's bus. Dated mid-1970s.

2002.090.0006.0038 - Photographic Christmas postcard from the Aikmans (Van and Cathy). Photograph of two children: Sean age 2 and Megan age 9 mos. Dated September 30, 1965. Handwritten note to Steve Homer from Cathy Aikman written on the back.

2002.090.0006.0039 - Photograph of the Sunline boat in the water.

2002.090.0006.0040 - Photograph of what appears to be a school club. Men and women present.

2002.090.0006.0041 - Photograph of a group of teenage boys including a young Steve Homer. Roger Ludlow High School, Class of 1936, Fairfield, CT. Description and list of names are written on the back.

2002.090.0006.0042 - Photograph of Steve Homer and a woman in front of the Chicago Natural History Museum.

2002.090.0006.0043 - Photograph of of house that was built by Steve Homer's father in 1924. Steve lived in this house from 1924-1936. The house's address: 730 S. Benson Road Fairfield, CT

2002.090.0006.0044 - Color photograph of the Marine Commuter II ferry boat in the water.

2002.090.0006.0045 - Picture of the fishing port at Rach Gia  
2002.090.0006.0046 - Picture of the fishing port at Rach Gia  
2002.090.0006.0047 - Picture of the fishing port at Rach Gia  
2002.090.0006.0048 - Picture of the fishing port at Rach Gia  
2002.090.0006.0049 - Picture of the fishing port at Rach Gia

**Series 0007 – Books**

The Milepost – 1953 edition

How to Speak Japanese Romanized