



FINDING AID

FUHRMAN-BAUMGARTNER PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS 1919-1924

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11/10/2011

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Catalog Number: YELL 200598

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HISTORY

Ida Fay Fuhrman, later Hoyt, and Ethel P. Fuhrman Baumgartner worked for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company (YPCC) for several years. The daughters of Henry and Margaret Shifferly Fuhrman, the girls grew up in Adams County, Indiana, where Henry was a farmer and rural mail carrier. Ethel, the eldest of the four Fuhrman children, was born December 12, 1893. She married Herman F. Baumgartner about 1918, in Indiana and had a daughter, Miriam R., about 1926. In 1920, the couple was living in Root Township, Indiana, where Herman worked as a bookkeeper in a general store. Both Ethel and Herman worked for the Yellowstone Park Camps Company in 1924: Ethel as a laundress and Herman in construction or transportation.

Ida was born March 17, 1895, and married Nason S. Hoyt about 1925, in Indiana. Ida appears to have been the first to work in Yellowstone, working as a "tent girl" in 1919, probably at the Canyon camp. She stayed in Montana at least through 1920, living with her aunt and uncle, Benjamin F. and Emma F. Winans in Livingston, Montana. Benjamin served as Superintendent of Public Schools while Ida worked as a stenographer. Although it is unknown if she continued annually with the YPCC after 1919, at least by 1924, Ida had returned to work in the Park, this time in the laundry. One of the Livingston cousins, Dorothy Winans, joined the Fuhrman sisters as Bubble Queens, as the YPCC laundresses were known. A Fuhrman-Winans family reunion was also held in the Park in 1924.

Both Ethel and Ida later moved to California. Ida was in Glendale, California, by 1930 where she worked as a clerk in a laundry agency and husband Nason was an aviation mechanic. In 1930, Ethel and Herman were in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where Herman worked as an operator in an electric factory. Ethel passed away on November 29, 1976, in Los Angeles County, California. Ida died on July 28, 1989, in Tujunga, Los Angeles County, California.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

FUHRMAN-BAUMGARTNER PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS 1919-1924

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 200598

VOLUME 0.25 LF

DESCRIPTION Two photograph albums and ephemera depicting Yellowstone National Park and life as an employee of the Yellowstone Parks Camps Company, 1919-1924.

The collection consists of two photograph albums dated 1919 and 1924 as well as a song book and baggage sticker from 1924. The 1919 album has olive cloth covers, black paper pages with images inserted through corner slits, and is bound with a cloth ribbon or shoelace. The 1924 album has black leather covers, black paper pages with images affixed by small pieces of tape at the corners, and a 3-ring metal binding. Both albums include detailed captions. There are also occasional notes added by descendants, which provide additional identifications of Ida, Ethel, and other family members.

The 1919 album is identified as belonging to Ida and depicts a variety of locations throughout the Park including camps at Canyon, Lake, Roosevelt, and Mammoth; the Canyon and Lake Hotels; a swimming pool; and the Norris Ranger Station. Of particular note are a birds-eye-view of Fort Yellowstone with the Mammoth Camp as well as interior views of a power plant (possibly at Roosevelt) and the transportation office. There are also several winter scenes including Fort Yellowstone and the Lake Camp, where the tents are still standing in November. Building close-ups include the Chapel and Harry Childs's residence (now known as Executive House). Landscape and geothermal views include Hayden Valley, the Yellowstone River, Handkerchief Pool, Devil's Slide, Liberty Cap, and the Mammoth Terraces, including Pulpit Terrace. Wildlife depicted includes bears, bison, and "Billy" the elk. There are numerous photographs of Yellowstone Park Camps Company employees, most with names identified. Of note are camp matrons, cooks, and the Hays family, with whom Ida stayed in the fall and into the winter.

The 1924 album appears to be that of Ethel. It begins with Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Baumgartner starting on an automobile camping trip from Vandalia, Illinois, on May 13, 1924. The album depicts numerous landscape features including the Bridger, Immigrant (Emigrant), and Teton Mountains; the Hoodoos; Golden Gate; Swan Lake Flat; and the Three Sisters, Bunsen, and Electric Peaks. Water features included Mill Creek, Gardner River, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone Lake, and Osprey, Rustic, Mystic, and Lower Falls. Geothermal features shown are Jupiter and Angel Terraces, Fishing Cone, Old Faithful Geyser Basin, and individual geysers Old Faithful, Grotto, Beehive, Turbin, and Punch Bowl. Wildlife depicted includes bears, elk, deer, and a woodchuck. Manmade features include Jardine (MT), Old Faithful Inn, Mammoth Camp, the ranger station at the top of Mount Washburn, and the antler bridge at the Old Faithful Geyser Basin. The photographs also show hiking, camping, cabins, a stagecoach, a summer snowball fight, the family reunion, and a stage show by the Pack Rats (the YPCC porters) for the W. O. W. (Workers of the World?) convention. Many of the photographs include people, primarily YPCC employees and/or members of the Fuhrman-Baumgartner-Winan family. Fortunately, the images are well labeled with most captions containing full names. Of particular note are views of Ranger Wahl.

In addition to the albums, there is also a copy of the publication *Songs of the Yellowstone Park Camps*, which would have been used by the staff to perform the evening vaudeville-style entertainment they provided visitors. Finally, there is a luggage sticker depicting a silhouette of a group in a Model T-style automobile with the words "Yellowstone Park" above. Together, the albums and the ephemera document the work and social life of early concessioner employees and display the camaraderie and informality they enjoyed.

ORGANIZATION

The collection is arranged by format and then chronologically. Within the albums, the images remain in their original order.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Sharon McNally, 2011.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
1	Ida Fuhrman's album, 1919-1920
2	Fuhrman-Baumgartner album, 1924
3	Song book, baggage sticker, 1924