



Judge Roy Madsen Collection

Judge Roy Madsen was born in Kanatak in March 1923 and moved to Kodiak shortly after. His father, Charles Madsen, immigrated to Alaska from Sweden. His mother was Mary Metrokin and passed away when Judge Madsen was three. His father had several businesses in the city including a hotel and he was one of the first bear guides on island. Judge Madsen helped out in his fathers' businesses as a child. Judge Madsen was in college when he enlisted in the Navy in 1943. After the war he held several different jobs including as a fisherman. Judge Madsen earned his law degree and moved to Oregon for two years. He returned in Alaska in 1962 where he opened his own law practice. He helped establish the Kodiak Island Borough, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Koniag, Inc., and Kodiak Area Native Association. In 1975 he became the first Alaskan Native to serve as a Superior Court Judge. He served until 1990 when he retired. In his retirement, he served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents, worked with local Alaskan Native youth, and promoted conservation efforts. The Kodiak courthouse was renamed the Roy H. Madsen Center in his honor. Judge Madsen died on December 26, 2017.

Provenance

These objects were donated by Judge Roy Madsen on separate occasions. The first in 2012 and the second in 2015.

Scope and Content Note

Judge Madsen's materials are almost exclusively photographs and oral histories. The photographs pertain to his childhood helping out his father and brother with the bear guide business and World War II era Kodiak. The oral histories are a combination of stories from his childhood and information about his life and achievements.

Inventory

Photograph Collection, Location: Archives Room

- 27 photographs in P-447
- 77 photographs in P-990

Oral Histories

- West Side Stories, *Audio Location: NOAA Archives, and Archives Computer I; Transcript Location: Available on Baranov Museum Website*
<http://baranovmuseum.org/education/oral-history-films/>, Archives Computer I
- Evolution of the Bear Guiding Industry on Kodiak Island from One Family's Perspective
 - Transcript only in Archives Cabinet III, Drawer II
- Community Film Intensive, *Audio Location: Archives Computer I*