

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds

**No.:**

AU020

**TITLE:**

Josef Cenkner fonds

**CREATOR:**

Cenkner, Josef

**DATE RANGE:**

1964-1969

**EXTENT:**

9 photographs. - 0.01 m textual records. - 1 artifact

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

In 1965, Josef (Joe) Cenkner worked in the Arctic for Tower Foundation of Montreal, Quebec as a supervisor. At that time the company was subcontracting to maintain the runways and electrical components of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line. The line ran from the extreme north west Arctic to the extreme north east Arctic, with the main base at Resolution Bay, Northwest Territories.

Cenkner was an electrician responsible for maintaining the generators and in this capacity moved around the Arctic, from base to base, to assist with repairs and maintenance. Cenkner was required to travel and so had access to a snow transport vehicle with skis. Due to inclement weather conditions while flying, he often had to land at the military air base in Tuula, Greenland.

Cenkner met Lorne Smith when he was called to repair the electrical generators at the school at Resolution Bay. Lorne Smith was a teacher at the school and an amateur photographer. Cenkner and Smith became friends and occasionally went out on photographic sorties in the transport vehicle. In Greenland, Cenkner was also able to purchase photographic supplies for Smith.

Lorne Smith taught school in the Arctic until 1974, and then worked as an administrator with the Northwest Territories Department of Education in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories until 1992. Joe Cenkner left his position in the Arctic in 1966.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

The records were deposited by Michael Cenkner, son of Joe Cenkner, to the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections in 2012.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The fonds consist of black and white photographs taken by photographer Lorne Smith in

the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The photographs illustrate Arctic scenery, weather and Inuit everyday life. The textual records include a copy of a letter regarding Mr. Joseph Cenkner travelling to Alert, Nunavut in the Baffin Island region to offer electrical assistance on the DEW Line project. The artifact consists of a badge from the Canadian Forces Station at Alert, Ellesmere Island, N.W.T. which was featured on extreme weather clothing provided by the company.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

File list and digitized material is available.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2012.010

Further accruals are not expected.

**RELATED RECORDS:**

Records related to Lorne Smith can be found in the Lorne Smith fonds at the North West Territories Archives.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the biographical sketch was supplied by Michael Cenkner and his father, Josef Cenkner. Information about Lorne Smith was found in the biographical sketch for the Lorne Smith fonds at the North West Territories Archives.

Fonds description was created by Joan Chrusch in 2012.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Arctic regions

Igloos

DEW Line

Dogsledding--Pond Inlet

Seals

Snow--Pond Inlet