

Donald Progulske Papers

COLLECTION SUMMARY

IDENTIFIER

UA 53.93

TITLE

Donald Progulske Papers

DATES

1874, 1972-1995

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1.26 linear feet [2 document cases, 1 document case, long]

NAME OF CREATOR(S)

Progulske, Donald

LANGUAGE

English

REPOSITORY

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections

Hilton M. Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241, Box 2115

1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, SD 57007

Phone: 605-688-5094

Email: arcrefs@sdstate.edu

ACCESS NOTE

Open. This material does not circulate and may be used in-house only.

PREFERRED CITATION

Name of item, Collection identifier, box #, folder #, Collection Title, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

ABSTRACT

Dr. Donald R. Progulske (1923-2016), an esteemed academic in wildlife and forestry sciences, contributed significantly to the study of forest ecology through his work at South Dakota State University and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This abstract focuses on a notable project led by Progulske, featuring the bulletin "Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine," which documents the impact of human activity on the Black Hills environment. The bulletin, published in 1974, includes photographs comparing historical images from the 1874 Custer Black Hills Expedition, captured by William H. Illingworth, with contemporary scenes taken by Richard H. Sowell. Progulske and Sowell retraced Illingworth's photographic sites over three summers, highlighting changes in vegetation and human influence over the century. The research revealed that while conservation efforts aimed to protect the forest, they have inadvertently led to increased tree density, hindering new plant growth and altering the original landscape.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Donald R. Progulsk (1923-2016) was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and grew up an avid lover of nature. He graduated from Springfield Technical High School and was accepted into the Navy V12 program, studying at Harvard. He met his wife Eunice Hopler during World War II. Donald earned his B.S. from the University of Massachusetts, his M.S. from Virginia Tech, and his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. He worked at SDSU from 1956-1972 and served as head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from 1963-1972. After working at SDSU, he served as a chair of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for eighteen years.

CONTENTS NOTE

This collection features photographs from the bulletin "Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine: A Photographic Study of a Century of Forest Ecology," published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at South Dakota State University in 1974. The bulletin documents photographic sites from the Custer Black Hills Expedition of 1874. By comparing historical and contemporary scenes, it highlights the changes in vegetation and human impact over the past century. A companion publication, "Following Custer," was released to identify additional 1874 photo sites that were not included in the original study.

William H. Illingworth, hired by the U.S. Army, photographed the Black Hills Expedition in 1874. Though he did not document the exact number of photographs he took, it is believed he produced around 79 glass-plate negatives. Most of these negatives are preserved at the South Dakota State Archives in Pierre, with a few held at the National Archives and the Minnesota Historical Society.

In 1974, Donald R. Progulsk, then head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University, led the research and fieldwork for these publications. Richard H. Sowell, a photographic technician at the university's Audio-Visual Photo Lab, took the 1974 comparison photographs. Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine serves as a study of humanity's impact on the Black Hills environment. This decade-long project documented the expedition's route, spanning 1,205 miles through North Dakota, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

Sowell and Progulsk spent three summers retracing the original photographic sites in the Black Hills. By carefully analyzing the details in Illingworth's glass plates, they located the original sites and took contemporary comparison photos.

One significant insight from Progulsk's research is that while human impacts are enduring, conservation efforts have sometimes gone too far, preventing natural processes like forest fires that thin tree populations. He observed that the Black Hills Forest has become "closed," hindering the growth of new plants and trees. Consequently, some photos could not be accurately replicated due to increased tree density at the original locations.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

PERSONS

- Progulsk, Donald
- Sowell, Richard H.

- Illingworth, W. H. (William H.), 1842-1893

SUBJECTS

- Black Hills Expedition (1874)

ACCESS

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION

South Dakota State University supports access to the materials, published and unpublished, in its collections. Nonetheless, access to some items may be restricted as a result of their fragile condition or by contractual agreements with donors.

RIGHTS

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

This collection is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).

Researchers may quote from the collection under the fair use provision of the copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code).

Requests to publish should be arranged with the SDSU Archives and Special Collections.

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	American Landscape: 1776-1976, two centuries of change by James B. Trefethen	1976
1	2	Black Hills Flood	1975
1	3	Correspondence	1974-1995
1	4	Following Custer - unbound books	1974
1	5	Following Custer - unbound books	1974
1	6	Following Custer - unbound books	1974
1	7	Green Mountain Burning [prescribed burn]	1985
1	8	Green Mountains N. F. Prescribed fire workshop	1987 May 8
1	9	Illingworth Photo 1: View toward the Needles, Organ Pipes and Harney Peak in distance, Cap Rock to the right	1874, 1973
1	10	Illingworth Photo 2:	1874

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	11	Illingworth Photo 3: Castle Rock (Peak), wagon train in background, one wagon in foreground, camp near Limestone Peak	1874, 1973
1	12	Illingworth Photo 4:	1874
1	13	Illingworth Photo 5: Meadow with view toward the Needles and Harney Peak, Organ Pipes and Golden Valley	1874
1	14	Illingworth Photo 6: Ludlow Cave	1874
1	15	Illingworth Photo 7: Peaks near Nemo, red sandstone in Elk Creek Valley	1874
1	16	Illingworth Photo 8: Peaks north of Nemo	1874
1	17	Illingworth Photo 9: Camp at Hiddenwood Creek	1874
1	18	Illingworth Photo 10: Inyan Kara Mountain	1874, 1973
1	19	Illingworth Photo 11: Wagon master of the expedition was Michael Smith, with horse, gun in his left hand	1874
1	20	Illingworth Photo 12: Sioux camp in Castle Creek Valley - view west looking toward Silver Creek	1874, 1973
1	21	Illingworth Photo 13: Confluence of Heart Creek and Missouri River	1874
1	22	Illingworth Photo 14: Formal portrait of Custer Black Hills Expedition	1874
1	23	Illingworth Photo 15: Forsyth Dell	1874
1	24	Illingworth Photo 16: Sioux camp in Castle Creek Valley, view toward Hat Mountain, Buffalo Mountain	1874, 1973
1	25	Illingworth Photo 18: Panorama Permanent Camp towards Needles	1874
2	1	Illingworth Photo 19: Granite Ridge, Gold Quartz Mountain	1874, 1973
2	2	Illingworth Photo 20: Indian camp at Deerfield	1874, 1973
2	3	Illingworth Photo 21: River from bluff	1874
2	4	Illingworth Photo 22: One of first photos made when the expedition got into the Black Hills proper	1874, 1973
2	5	Illingworth Photo 23 and 71:	1874, 1973
2	6	Illingworth Photo 24: Castle Creek down valley wagon tracks	1874, 1973
2	7	Illingworth Photo 25:	1874
2	8	Illingworth Photo 26:	1874, 1973
2	9	Illingworth Photo 27:	1874, 1973
2	10	Illingworth Photo 28:	1874, 1973
2	11	Illingworth Photo 29:	1874
2	12	Illingworth Photo 30:	1874
2	13	Illingworth Photo 31:	1874
2	14	Illingworth Photo 32:	1874
2	15	Illingworth Photo 33:	1874
2	16	Illingworth Photo 34:	1874
2	17	Illingworth Photo 36:	1874
2	18	Illingworth Photo 37:	1874
2	19	Illingworth Photo 38:	1874
2	20	Illingworth Photo 39:	1874
2	21	Illingworth Photo 40:	1874
2	22	Illingworth Photo 41:	1874
2	23	Illingworth Photo 42:	1874

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	24	Illingworth Photo 43:	1874, 1973
2	25	Illingworth Photo 434	1874
2	26	Illingworth Photo 45:	1874, 1973
2	27	Illingworth Photo 46:	1874
2	28	Illingworth Photo 47:	1874
2	29	Illingworth Photo 48 and 67:	1874, 1973
2	30	Illingworth Photo 49:	1874, 1973
2	31	Illingworth Photo 50:	1874
2	32	Illingworth Photo 51:	1874, 1973
2	33	Illingworth Photo 52: Wagon train single file passing through Castle Creek Valley	1874, 1973
2	34	Illingworth Photo 53:	1874
2	35	Illingworth Photo 54:	1874
2	36	Illingworth Photo 55 and 59:	1874, 1973
2	37	Illingworth Photo 56:	1874
2	38	Illingworth Photo 57:	1874, 1973
2	39	Illingworth Photo 58:	1874
2	40	Illingworth Photo 60: Between Fort Abraham Lincoln and the Black Hills	1874
2	41	Illingworth Photo 62:	1874
2	42	Illingworth Photo 63:	1874
2	43	Illingworth Photo 65:	1874
2	44	Illingworth Photo 66:	1874
2	45	Illingworth Photo 68: Illingworth Mobile Dark Room	1874
2	46	Illingworth Photo 69:	1874
2	47	Illingworth Photo 70:	1874
2	48	Illingworth Photo 72:	1874
2	49	Illingworth Photo 73:	1874
2	50	Illingworth Photo P2:	1874
2	51	Illingworth Photo P3:	1874, 1973
2	52	Illingworth Photo P4:	1874, 1973
2	53	Illingworth Photo P5:	1874
2	54	Illingworth Photo P6: Forsyth Glenn	1874
2	55	Illingworth Photo P7:	1874
2	56	Illingworth Photos	1874
2	57	Illingworth Photos - Complete set in approximate order of photographing	1874
2	58	Illingworth Photos - Duplicate prints	1874
3	1	Illingworth Photographs - Negatives and photos copies from original glass plate negatives	1874
3	2	Interview of Progulske by Robert Campbell	2013
3	3	News articles	1972, 1974, 1979, undated
3	4	Photo Album - Illingworth and Sowell photos	1874, 1973
3	5	Photo Album - Illingworth and Sowell photos with captions	1874, 1973
3	6	Slides	1972

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
3	7	Sowell photo P8:	1973
3	8	Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine: Proof set	1974
3	9	Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine: Book cover	1974