

Albert William Vinson fonds

Fonds No. PF18

Physical Description: 6.4 cm of textual records; 7 b&w photographs

Date Range: 1946-1950; 2009; 2011

Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

Albert William (Bill) Vinson was born in Basingstoke, England on May 26, 1909 and immigrated to Nova Scotia in April 1910. His family moved to Calgary when he was in his teens, and he worked there as a cowboy for a year or two before he and his brother Alf travelled to Stuart River, near Vanderhoof, BC. They applied for a homestead and built a cabin, to which the family moved in the winter of 1927. Albert worked as a hunter and trapper (which he learned from Charlie Davidson), road builder, prospector, and a constructor and operator at Pinchi Mercury Mine and Germansen Mine. During this time he also enjoyed hiking, canoeing, writing poetry, and playing various instruments at dances in Chilco, Webber Lake, and other local places.

During World War II, from October 1942 until January 1945, Vinson served with the RCAF Special Reserve in Vancouver and Alliford Bay in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Following this, he worked as a Game Warden in Smithers from November 1, 1946 to August 31, 1948. He also owned and operated Smithers Second Hand Store until it burned down on February 2, 1949, and served as a polling station Deputy Returning Officer in 1948. He married his wife Gwendolyn in Smithers in 1948 and they had three children: Gwendolyn, George, and Fred (in addition to an earlier son of Gwendolyn's named John).

The family later moved to Vanderhoof, where Vinson helped construct several buildings as well as Kenney Dam; then to Prince George, where he worked as a powerhouse operator at Baldy Hughes Air Force Base. After the early death of his wife, he remarried to Verna and they had two daughters, Jeannie and Dawn. In 1973 the family moved to Powell River, where Vinson managed a trailer park and rental homes until retiring around age 80. He passed away in Prince George on November 8, 2011.

Scope and Content

Fonds is organized into five series, reflecting Vinson's various endeavours:

1. Personal records
2. Smithers Second Hand Shop
3. Game Warden
4. Deputy Return Officer
5. Photographs

Records include correspondence, receipts, forms, photographs, personal documents and reports.

Personal records

Series no.: **S1**

Part of: Albert William Vinson fonds

Related accessions: 2013.14

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records.

Date range: 1947-1948

Scope and content

Series includes personal records collected or created by Vinson and include correspondence, personal documents and receipts. Correspondence regards Vinson renting a house from Vida M. Cook. Personal documents include an RBC savings account booklet and driver's license.

Smithers Second Hand Shop

Series no.: **S2**

Part of: Albert William Vinson fonds

Related accessions: 2013.14

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records.

Date range: 1948-1949

Scope and content

Series relates to Vinson's time running the Smithers Second Hand Shop. Records include correspondence and financial records. Financial records include a cash book, sale/purchase receipts, and tax forms.

Game Warden

Series no.: **S3**

Part of: Albert William Vinson fonds

Related accessions: 2013.14

Physical description: 1.5 cm of textual records.

Date range: 1945-1949

Scope and content

Series includes reports and correspondence during Vinson's time as Smithers' Game Warden.

Deputy Returning Officer

Series no.: **S4**

Part of: Albert William Vinson fonds

Related accessions: 2013.14

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records.

Date range: 1949

Scope and content

Series includes various filled out forms under the Dominion Elections Act while Vinson acted as Deputy Returning Officer.

Photos

Series no.: **P**

Part of: Albert William Vinson fonds

Related accessions: 2013.14

Physical description: 5 b&w photographs; 2 sepia photographs

Date range: [1947-1948?]

Scope and content

Photos pertain to Vinson's time in Smithers and include photos of Vinson, landscapes, a deer head and the Smithers Bike Race.

Notes

As of March 2017, 3 photos are missing although individual records/ digital copies exist in the database.