

George Van Wilby fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (2002)
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University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

George Van Wilby fonds. – 1917-1925.

370 b&w photographic negatives.

Biographical Sketch

George Van Wilby was a University of British Columbia student who completed his B.A. in 1921 and an M.A. in 1924. While on campus he was well known for documenting various aspects of campus life through his photographs. Some of his photographs were used to illustrate the UBC student yearbook, *The Annual*. Wilby was later a zoology instructor at UBC, and did post-graduate work in biology at the University of Toronto. He also compiled the [1925 Alumni Directory](#).

“The mildest mannered man that ever slit a throat.” If you wish to get acquainted with, or find out about, anybody, get pictures of them, or snapshots of a college group or event, consult the genial Van – he knows them all – (and if it’s a girl, you can get the address, too). He is enthusiastic about everything from Spanish to entomology, from dances to girls’ basketball games, from native sons to Victoria daughters. Founder of the “Come and Eat Club”, which holds numerous sessions at Cusick’s.

- from *The Annual*, 1921

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of 370 black and white negatives taken between 1917 and 1924. The images are primarily of UBC students at the University's original Fairview campus. There are also shots of faculty members. As well as posed individual shots of students, there are many photographs of various student activities including the annual class picnic. Although most of the photographs are not identified they are very important for collectively documenting student life at the University in the late teen’s and early 1920s.

Notes

Images presented in an [on-line photo gallery](#).

[More of George Van Wilby's photographs](#) are included in [UBC Archives Historical Photographs](#).