

Leitha Kelly's Can-Am Race Scrapbooks

MCC-00553

Total boxes: 1
Linear feet: 0.30 ft
(0.43 cubic ft)

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Leitha Kelly's Can-Am Race Scrapbooks (MCC-00553)

Shelf List Number: AB-553

Collection Overview

Creator

Leitha Kelly

Dates

1992-2023

Extent

47 scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings and program brochures from the Can-Am races for their entire history.

39 color photographs housed in an archival photo binder.

Provenance

Donated by Leitha Kelly in June 2023

Language

English

Conservation Notes

Some papers glued onto the scrapbooks are tri-fold brochures or schedules that may unfold when lifted up; be aware of this when handling.

A couple of the photographs had folded corners that were unfolded by the processing archivist, and may be fragile.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

The Can-Am Crown is a series of three sled dog races that start and finish in Fort Kent, Maine. The three races run for 30, 100, & 250 miles respectively with predetermined rest stations along the way. “The Can-Am Crown organization was founded on October 16, 1992 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Maine. It was established to provide a mid-distance sled dog race to a growing community of mushers from throughout the international region and to enhance the region's image as a travel destination. The Can-Am Crown 250 has rapidly gained popularity as the longest sled dog race in the eastern United States.”¹ Since starting in 1992, the races have gained popularity with racers traveling from all over North America to compete and drawing international volunteers and spectators, with the exception of 2021 when the races weren't able to be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 250 mile race is a qualifier for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska. The Can-Am is held in February-March each year. In 2023, women won all three races for the first time in the race's history. 2023 was also the first year the race was broadcast online.

Scope and Content

This collection is made up of forty-seven scrapbooks that are made from posterboard, newspaper articles, and Can-Am promotional materials as well as photographs from the Can-Am races. The scrapbooks cover the race's entire 30 year history (up until 2023 when this collection was donated).

Any references to downtown or Main Street in this finding aid refer to downtown/Main Street Fort Kent, Maine where the race starts. Main street is closed for the morning of the Can-Am and the road is covered in snow before being cleared after all the race teams have departed. The race ends at Lonesome Pines ski hill in Fort Kent.

Arrangement

The scrapbooks were brought to the Archives in chronological order by the year each race took place. The processing archivist numbered them chronologically for this finding aid. There are a couple scrapbooks from 2015 and 2018 that have event brochures/newspaper clippings from both years on the same scrapbooks. These were noted on the finding and left in the order they were brought to the Archives to preserve original order.

The photographs in series two were brought to the archives in one clear plastic sleeve. They were separated into individual sleeves and placed in an archival photograph binder. The photos didn't have a clear original order so they were left in the order they had been stacked in. The processing archivist gave them numbers on the finding aid based on their order when describing them to make it easier for researchers to search the collection. Some of the photos have a number circled on the back, but it's unknown what these numbers mean.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

¹“Race History.” Can-Am Crown website. Accessed on 2023-06-06 from <https://can-am-crown.net/about/history.php>

Subject Headings

Clippings (newspapers, books, etc.)
Covid-19 (Disease) in mass media
Fort Kent, Maine
Saint John River Valley (Me. and N.B.)
Sled-dog racing

Related Materials

Gary Pelletier Can-Am Crown Race photograph album, MCC-00214, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Marc Chasse Newspaper collection MCC-00507, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Scrapbooks

Scrapbook #	Description	Date(s)
1	A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the first three Can-Am races.	1993-1994
2	A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the second and third Can-Am races.	1993-1994
3	A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings primarily from the 1994 Can-Am race, but a couple of clippings are from the 11th annual race.	1994, Undated
4	A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and a poster advertising the 14th annual Can-Am schedule.	1996
5	A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 5th annual race along with a couple event schedules.	1996-1997
6	A white poster folded in half with undated newspaper clippings covering the weather conditions that provided extra challenges to mushers, as well as a poster for the 5th anniversary sled dog races.	Undated, 1997
7	A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 6th annual race and its competitors.	1998
8	A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and a program from the 7th annual sled dog races.	1999
9	A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the races and Mardis Gras as well as a program from the 8th annual race.	2000
10	A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on a few mushers from Northern Maine competing in the Can-Am 250 mile race.	2000

- 11 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the first woman to finish the Can-Am and advertising posters/event pamphlets for the 9th annual race. 2001
- 12 A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings only on the front page of the poster. 2001
- 13 A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the race and its competitors. 2002, 2006
- 14 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings focusing on the dogs competing in the Can-Am 10th annual races. 2002
- 15 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings looking for volunteers to help operate the Can-Am, check-point information and an appeal for information on an injured musher. Undated, 2003, 2005
- 16 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the 11th annual race with a focus on mushers. 2003
- 17 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the races. 2004
- 18 A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the races with a focus on Bruce Langmaid of Blackstock, Ontario winning the 12th annual 250 race for a second time. 2004
- 19 A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the 13th annual race along with one article featuring the IPC Nordic World Championships taking place in Fort Kent as well. 2005
- 20 A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the 23th annual race. Half of the articles focus on Larry Murphy, the Fort Kent elementary school assistant principal and former basketball coach turned musher. 2005
- 21 A neon green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the races. 2005
- 22 A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the race featuring a wedding at one of the checkpoints and a New Hampshire musher winning the 250 race during his third time competing. 2006
- 23 A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings on the 14th annual race. 2006
- 24 A light green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the Can-Am with a focus on the 250 mile race. 2007
- 25 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 15th annual Can-Am races. 2007
- 26 A blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 16th annual Can-Am races. A couple of articles highlight University of Maine at Fort Kent students volunteering. 2008
- 27 A green poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and event brochures for the 16th annual Can-Am race. 2008

28	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 17th annual Can-Am race.	2009
29	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 17th annual Can-Am race. The last page is blank.	2009
30	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 17th annual Can-Am race as well as an event schedule.	2009
31	A red poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 18th annual Can-Am race as well as a copy of the Can-Am Chronicle and a thank you card from a racing team that couldn't make it to Allagash in person that year.	2010
32	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 19th annual Can-Am races. The front page features a poster highlighting the purse prize.	2011
33	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 19th annual Can-Am races. The front page features a thank you note to Leitha and her family for having the author and others.	2011
34	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 20th annual Can-Am races. The front page features a poster highlighting the purse prize and the second page is blank.	2012
35	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the Can-Am races.	2012
36	A black and orange poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 21st annual Can-Am races.	2013
37	A light blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 22nd annual Can-Am races. The back page is empty.	2014
38	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 23rd annual Can-Am races. The back page is empty.	2015
39	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 23rd annual Can-Am races. The back page has newspaper clippings and a program for the 26th annual race.	2015/ 2018
40	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 24th annual Can-Am races. The front page features a poster for the event.	2016
41	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the Can-Am races and the preparation that goes into them.	2016
42	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 25th annual Can-Am races.	2017
43	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 26th annual Can-Am races. On the back cover is a program from the 2015 race.	2018/ 2015

44	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 27th annual Can-Am races. The back page is blank.	2019
45	A dark blue poster folded in half with newspaper clippings and programs covering the 28th annual Can-Am races.	2020
46	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the covering the Can-Am races. Half of the articles highlight the hiatus the races had to take the previous year due to Covid-19.	2022
47	A white poster folded in half with newspaper clippings covering the 30th annual Can-Am races. Only the front page has clippings, the rest are blank.	2023

Series II: Photographs

Box	Sleeve	Photo #	Description	Date(s)
1	1	1	A man is leaning down to pet a sled dog whose head is raised up toward him with its eyes closed. Another sled dog who is attached to a line can be seen through the gap between the man and the first dog.	Undated
1	1	2	A racer and his team of dogs are running on the track made on Main St. through town with a spectator seen on the sidewalk behind them.	Undated
1	2	3	A low-angled show of a few sled dogs hooked up to their line besides a motor vehicle. One of the dog's head is partially cut out of the shot.	Undated
1	2	4	A young child facing away from the camera in a red hooded coat stands at a barrier holding a hand-made sign with "Go dogs! In the year of 2002" written on it.	2002
1	3	5	Close-up shot of a baby in a pink winter suit bundled up in a harness on their parent's chest.	Undated
1	3	6	Action shot of a partial team of dogs running on the track through town. A maroon banner for a business is flapping off the barricade its attached to and spectator hands can be seen leaning over it.	Undated
1	4	7	A pair of empty sleds sit on top of the travel cage for a team of sled dogs that is attached to a truck bed. The truck is parked at a self-service gas station next to a white car.	Undated
1	4	8	A close-up shot of two dogs from the next up. They're sitting side-by-side	Undated
1	5	9	A race team is taking off on the track downtown with a crowd of spectators watching from the sidelines. A few people can be seen standing around behind the racer.	Undated

1	5	10	Close-up side view of a dog sled with an American flag mounted near the handles.	Undated
1	6	11	A teenage boy is kneeling next to a race dog in a heavy green parka and red hat. The dog is wearing a red harness. To the right of the boy, is a woman in a wheelchair looking at him.	Undated
1	6	12	A team is getting set-up at the starting point for the 60 mile race with the help of multiple volunteers. Spectators watch from either side of the track.	Undated
1	7	13	A team is taking off on the track with spectators and race volunteers looking on in the background.	Undated
1	7	14	A group of people are sitting at a table. Two of the people are cut out of the frame.	Undated
1	8	15	A team is taking off on the track with spectators and race volunteers looking on in the background.	Undated
1	8	16	A team of dogs appears to have stopped on the track in town with the dogs looking in different directions. A handful of spectators can be seen watching from the sidelines.	Undated
1	9	17	View of a race team from behind with spectators looking on.	Undated
1	9	18	A race dog stands between a person's legs. Other people and race dogs can be seen in the background.	Undated
1	10	19	A small child stands behind the barrier of the race track smiling and holding a sign.	Undated
1	10	20	A race team takes off from the starting point as volunteers and spectators watch.	Undated
1	11	21	Upper body shot of a race with spectators and the Daigle Oil Office building in the background.	Undated
1	11	22	View of a team running down the track on Main street from behind as spectators watch from the sidelines.	Undated
1	12	23	Low-angle shot of a team of sled dogs running on the track with spectators watching and cheering them on.	Undated
1	12	24	Image of a musher and the top part of their sled taking off from the starting line.	Undated
1	13	25	A Can-Am volunteer sitting at a table with a computer and other operating equipment in front of him.	Undated
1	13	26	A group of people are sitting at a table but a couple of them are cut out of the image by the camera angle.	Undated
1	14	27	A musher is setting up their sled with help from others to handle their dogs. A woman in a wheelchair watches from the side.	Undated
1	14	28	Volunteers hold a team of sled dogs in place on the race track while spectators watch from the sidelines.	Undated

1	15	29	Slightly blurry photo of a dog inside their travel cage.	Undated
1	15	30	Can-Am volunteers hold a team of dogs in place on the track.	Undated
1	16	31	Low-angle view of a two dogs at the back of their team pulling a sled. A partial view of the sled and musher are visible.	Undated
1	16	32	Someone in a fur hat leans over the barriers on one side of the race track reaching for an over-the-shoulder bag hung on one barricade.	Undated
1	17	33	A man in a red plaid jacket is leaning over a dog holding them by the collar.	Undated
1	17	34	A group of sled dogs can be seen on the left side of the image looking at another dog on the other side of the frame that is being held and looked at by a musher or volunteer.	Undated
1	18	35	A group of volunteers stand over a team of dogs holding their harnesses and preventing them from getting tangled up.	Undated
1	18	36	A team of sled dogs are running on the track.	Undated
1	19	37	A shot of teams setting up their sleds and dogs in preparation for the race.	Undated
1	19	38	A race team is running on the track through Main street in downtown Fort Kent.	Undated
1	20	39	Image of a dog standing in between the front of a motor vehicle and a sled.	Undated