

**RG4644.MI (AV2.129): Melcher, William Henry**

Producer/Photographer: William Henry Melcher

Date(s): 1920s-1970s

Genre: Home movies, travelogue

Format of original: 16mm

Approx. running time: 5 1/2 hours

No. of reels: 33 reels

Color characteristics: b/w; color

Sound characteristics: Silent

Polarity characteristics: Positive

Description:

This collection of silent movies documents the home and recreational activities of the Melcher family of Omaha, Nebraska. The movies span four generations; Grandparents Melcher and Robinson, mother and William H. Melcher, Shirley and Bill Melcher, and the Grandchildren (Billy, Patty, Mark K., Melissa, Barb?). Highlights include: 1920s aerial footage over Omaha Nebraska; 1928 footage of Charles Lindberg flying in Omaha; 1920s Model T cars, dance steps, downtown Omaha buildings; winter and summer activities; c.1937 National Open Gold Champion, Bobby Jones showing analysis of golf form (in slow motion); Lakewood Gold Field Club; Omaha Train Station; Ft. Crook, Omaha; 1920s-60s footage of an island (on the Missouri?) where the family spent much time; 20s to 30s Travelogue of California, Mexico, Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, Arizona, Badlands, Colorado, Estes Park Glacier, to several minutes of the North Shore of Lake Superior; 1938 Military parade (in Omaha?); 1938 footage of ice chunks down the Missouri; 1948 Flood; 1940s model aero planes; 1943 Dike building; 1950s flight over Omaha; 1960s footage of Arizona to the Ozarks; 1948 flood at Valley.

Reel 01 - 1920s, 9 1/2 min., b/w

Shirley as a baby (cradle with bottle, walker); Grandfather Robinson; Jud at 2612 C Street; Fort Crook, Omaha, Nebraska - flight over Omaha.

Reel 02 - 1920s, 10 min., b/w

Charles Lindberg 1928 Omaha, Nebraska; Kids Ewing?; Mother, Dad Robinson; Shirley as a baby; washing the car; winter scenes (sledding, snowballs); Shirley on a homemade swing; mother and four kids wading under a highway overpass.

Reel 03 - 1920s, 12 min., b/w

Old time Family Roll; Robins and Melcher Family; Mother Melcher; Jud and mother; Mrs. Spieller, Laura Lee and Fran Lois; baby (Shirley?) in Indian headdress; Model T cars, houses, and buildings; zoo (bear, eagle, owl); two babies in walkers; Lance steps on the balcony; basket of flowers on sidewalk.

Reel 04 - 1928-30, 13 min., b/w

Trip to California; Father and Mother Melcher; Denver? (Capitol building?, statues, zoo, log cabin, Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs, mountain scenes, a canyon); Salt Lake City (Mormon Tabernacle, Capitol building); San Francisco (water, buildings, ship, fairy ride, seagulls, sunset; Los Angeles orange grove, palm trees, oil field, missions); Grand Canyon-3 minutes.

Reel 05 - 1927-30, 8 1/2 min., b/w

Shirley as baby (catch, swimsuit, climbing steps); McCluctvich?; Southord kids; Nelder Emnu?; Mother and Dad; Shirley playing with water hose and rocking with large doll; picnic by river.

- Reel 06 - 1930, 10 min., b/w  
 Shirley (wagon, tricycle, scooter, Fred, blowing kisses); Omaha Train Station; San Diego (ocean, lions at zoo, mexican dancing, view from hill overlooking city); William and Cam; Cam with broken leg; Mabel.
- Reel 07 - 1931, 9 min. b/w (tape on canister says 1920s)  
 Lakewood 1931; Daudy pictures?; all golf except for last 2 ft of Shirley; golf - Howard Quigley, Art, H. Jeeley; golfing - men and women, drinks at clubhouse.
- Reel 08 - 1931, 11 min., b/w  
 Ship on the river?; large cactus along road (Arizona?); Shirley (with cat, roller skating, sledding); Billy as a baby (winter); a State Capitol building with columns in front?; (Denver?) zoo (bears, elephant); River; Billy (with Shirley in wagon, high chair, walker).
- Reel 09 - 1935?, 11 min., b/w  
 California; Valley Pontoon Bridge (crane, dredging); Mexico (mission camp); Boulder Dam; cornfield; white sand dunes; snowstorm; a conservatory?; Billy and Shirley in wagon; State Capitol Building (Pierre, SD?); Badlands; Yellowstone National Park (thermal pools, bear, Old Faithful).
- Reel 10 - 1931, 32, 36, 11 min., b/w  
 New house? 1936 South 35th Avenue; Billy with dog and wagon; train scene; Shirley dressed in wedding dress, as a gypsy; Billy crawling and first steps.
- Reel 11 - 1937 or 38, 11 min., b/w  
 Lakewood Golf Field; Father John; Mother Gracey?; Billy at gate with golf club; Mother and man golfing in a field.
- Reel 12 - 1937-38, 6 min., b/w  
 Golf field club; four some?; for John Kelly, ? Melcher; Kelly Gardner/me; Father John; kid next door, waving.
- Reel 13 - 1937? and c.1930, 8 1/2 min., b/w (first 5 minutes orange)  
 Title cards: Kodak cinegraph; Bobby Jones, National Open Golf Champion; Drive; Analysis of Upper Body Action and Follow through; Note the floor action; Iron; Mashie Nibleck?; Putt; Stymie; From the Rental Library of Eastman Kodak Stores (shows store at 1618 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska) - Johnny Goodman golfing?, more recent footage. Footage of Bobby Jones uses slow motion. Last 1/2 minute is 1930 fill-in of family at the island.
- Reel 14 - 1939, 9 min., color  
 1939 vacation Boca swimming?; skating at Valley; Nixon's; Ingrahms new baby and family before the war (in service uniform); title cards: July 14, 44 (swimming in pool at the island); July 16, 1944 (mother, dog, others posing by river); July 4, 44 (horseshoes, playing cards, swimming, rowing, chopping a tree into the river); May 44 - Billy with dog, in a go-cart, in a boat, women hanging clothes, suspension bridge; January 1944 - Shaking Lane? (ice skating, hockey); January 25, 1944 - Ice Goes Out (ice chunks on river); Inghram's new baby.
- Reel 15 - 1938-40, 11 min., b/w  
 Watkins-Ingrahms; Good Old Time Roll 1939-40; 1938-39 Billy and Buddy; Island - Skating - Isle Royale; first trip Isle Royale; Kids carrying drum to flag playing; sawing logs; laying bricks; suspension bridge fallen into river; kids standing on ice chunks on ground by river; ice chunks all over ground; boys playing leapfrog; trip to Isle Royale-cabins, lighthouse, steamboats); moving train; eating at cabin; Billy with toy boat; ice skating.

- Reel 16 - 1930-41, 13 min., color (green washed out)  
1930-40 Island; Winter 39-40; Irvings 40; Rushes?; Autumn; J.B. Watkin; Billy with toy boat; seesaw; winter ice; summer swimming in pool; tractor; golfing.
- Reel 17 - 1943, 10 min., b/w and color  
1943 Pumping dikes; hogs; chickens; swimming; picking chickens; Fourth of July; Billy with turtle; plane; Titles: The Game, August 194? (horse, go-cart, lawn-mover?, churning butter, river raft); September 1943-Before Construction of dikes; July 1943 swimming pool, slow motion dives; October 28, 1943 - Claying dike; September 26? (mud springing from ground, rowboat, plane, dressing chickens); October 30, 1943 - Claying dike; November 9, 1943 - Snow blizzard.
- Reel 18 - 1945-46, 10 min., color (green washed out)  
Fall 46; Nixon's; Bill and Shirley skating, boating; Sheriff; February 10, 1945, Shirley? at the camera; water skiing; snake; sailboat; ice hockey; hunting all at the island.
- Reel 19 - 1941-42, 9 min., color and b/w  
All at the island - Shirley ice skating February 23, 1941; building a sleeping porch; laying cement; June 15, 1941 Billy in go-cart; July 4, 1941 - Badminton; swimming in pool; first pictures at island March 2, 1941?; geese flying in formation; train; scooping snow; Christmas; hockey; sawing tree limb; butchering hogs.
- Reel 20 - 1941-42, 7 min., b/w and color  
1941 winter scenes; Stacia, Shirley; 1942-Ollie, Mary Or, Lois, Francis; Storm; John Nixon; cutting tree limb; July and August 41-Swimming; August 20, 1941-Shooting the Fish (Billy); Billy in go-cart.
- Reel 21 - 1946, 8 min., color and b/w  
Estes Park 1946; Model Aero planes; meet, Fort Crook, Omaha, Nebraska; Indians at Estes?; No. 10 Haydn; mountains-Estes; a glacier; 1941-flying model planes; ice on river at island; real planes at Fort Crook?
- Reel 22 - 1946-47, 10 min., color and b/w  
1946 Picnic-Planes; 1947 skating, Island; Nixon's Arizona; new cabin, Estes Fall 1947; Island's Flood; Arizona - (deer drinking, desert mountains, movie camera, San Miguel Church-oldest in USA, planes in formation); new cabin, mountain view out window; wildflowers, butterfly, riding horses, photographers reflection.
- Reel 23 - 1948, 9 min., b/w and color  
1948 Flood - Valley; Picnic at Island; Minnesota-North Shore, Shirley and Billy; Duluth, Inghrams; Canada Steamship Lines Boat; Highway 61; waterfalls; Northwest jet taking off; water against rocks.
- Reel 24 - 1946-49, 11 1/2 min., color & b/w  
Nurses Picnic; Shirley; Island floods-winter; Henry Rush?; 1946 Christmas; Billy with movie camera; truck dumping dirt; swimming pool reflection.
- Reel 25 - 1949, 12 1/2 min., color  
July 4, 1949 Picnic; North Shore storm on Lake Superior; several minutes of water shots of North Shore.
- Reel 26 - 1952-53, 8 1/2 min., color  
1952-? Anderson's guns; 1953-Silver winter - winter scenes; 1953-North Shore; Willy Dee, 1953; March 5, 1953 canoeing on river; plane flying.

- Reel 27 - 1955-61, 9 min., color  
Fourth of July picnics except for 1958; fist movies of Patty, age 5 months; Patty walking-15 months; Bill flying over Omaha with Joe Lucas; August 1958 Brunch; Desert mountain scenes (lizards, road runner?), whirly plane.
- Reel 28 - 1961-62, 10 min., color  
1961 Fourth of July picnic; Patty and Barb in New Swing; October 1961 fishing trip at Horseshoe Lake; house at Scottsdale, Arizona - November 1961; Comeback Rock; Thanksgiving at the Petties?; 1961 Azaleas; September 23, 1962 - Bill III first birthday; October 1961-fishing Ozarks.
- Reel 29 - 1963-64, 10 min., color  
Sixty-three grandchildren; July 4, 1963 - Rush family; 1963 Birthday; new baby-Mary K.; November 3, 1963 - Mary K's Baptism; sixty-four grandchildren; Memorial Day-Kids on swing; fishing traps-Ozarks and Rush Lake; July 4, 1964-Billy III taking his pants off son; Halloween costumes; September 23, 1963 Billy's second birthday, Billy in cowboy boots, Baby Mary K. at Billy's birthday; June 9, 1963 - the kids next door, swimming (Scottsdale?); July 24, 1963 picnic on the Island; Omaha Picnic, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Reel 30 - 1964-65, 10 1/2 min., color  
August 1964-Mary's first birthday, Mary trying to walk falling down over and over; October 1964-mary walking; fishing trip, October 1964, Rush lake?, boat, autumn trees, using a tractor as a pulley to pump water; July 4, 1965-Bill's new house, wearing masks, bouncing ball against a net, lumberjack weathervane; Christmas at Bills; May 30, 1966 memorial Day Picnic (at Bills?); Mary's second birthday; may 66-riding bikes; flying with Bill-Cabin Farm?; someone's fifth birthday (Bard?); 1968 (Piccolo?) Patty, Barb, Kate riding horses at stables.
- Reel 31 - 1968-74?, 11 1/2 min., color  
1973 - hairdos; grilling out at new house; Billy III new bike for his birthday; 1968 fishing trip to Minnesota; July 4, 1969 and 1970 at Bills new house - sandbox, blowing bubbles; Melissa's first steps at Mary's third birthday; witch mask; 1973 Easter Egg Hunt, little family dog jumps over a hedge row, banana seat bike; 1973 Flowering Crabtree; 1973-flying remote planes.
- Reel 32 - 1974, 1 1/2 min., color  
Missy and playmates swinging slow motion and regular speed; flying remote plane.
- Reel 33 - 1938, 5 1/2 min., color  
Island - ice chunks floating down the river, scooping snow from driveway, kids jumping down into snow piles; Grandpa and Grandma; Billy in cowboy outfit; Military Parade (in Omaha, Nebraska?)