



Alaska Highway Construction Subject Guide

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Compiled May 2022

This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating archival materials pertaining to the Alaska Highway and its construction, housed at the Atwood Resource Center of the Anchorage Museum. It is not necessarily a complete listing of all Alaska Highway-related holdings. Please contact ARC staff at resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org or 907- 929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.

Using this Guide

The Alaska Highway runs from Dawson Creek, BC, to Delta Junction, AK, for the purpose of connecting Alaska to the lower 48. Its construction began March of 1942, and it was officially dedicated at Soldiers Summit in November of 1942, though not usable to vehicles until 1943. The collections listed below illustrate the history of the Alaska Highway. The majority of the images show its construction. Some collections instead depict its road conditions in later years. The collections are ordered by accession number. In addition, a list of publications pertaining to the Alaska Highway from the Atwood Resource Center library has been included at the end of this guide. This document will be updated as new collections are accessioned and relevant materials are found through research and review.

CIHS U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, Collection, B1962.x.015

Includes 28 black-and-white official U.S. and Canadian Army photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

Von Der Heydt Photograph Collection, B1978.079 (guide coming soon)

Includes 9 black-and-white photographs of highway construction.

Vrsalovic Slides, B1982.103 (guide coming soon)

Total 77 slides of Alaska Highway and other Alaskan sites taken in 1957.

Alaska Highway Collection, B1984.082 (guide coming soon)

Includes album containing approximately 230 photographs and ephemera documenting Alaska Highway construction.

Iris Woolcock, B1989.004

Iris Woolcock, professional photographer, documented the Alaska Highway in 1948, particularly regarding the hazards of living in and traveling with trailers. This collection consists of one diary and 516 photographs of her trip.

Alaska Highway Photographs, B1989.019 (guide coming soon)

Taken by an anonymous photographer, this collection includes 41 photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

Frances and William C. Ray Collection, B1990.002

Frances Ray worked as a secretary at Ford Richardson, a teacher at Anchorage High School, and a registrar at Anchorage Community College, between 1944-1976. William "Bill" Ray worked as a civilian employee in the Depot Supply at Fort Richardson during WWII, starting in 1939. After joining the Air Force, Bill worked as a property administrator for the White Alice project until retirement in 1973. Bill was an avid photographer, and this collection consists of his prints and slides, as well as collected postcards, papers, and ephemera from the couple. The 44 slides document the Rays' trip to Alaska on the Alaska Highway in 1947.

Mealy Collection, B1992.030 (guide coming soon)

This collection consists of 410 photographs, including slides, negatives, and prints. At least some of these images depict the Alaska Highway.

Alaska Highway Construction Photographs, B1993.001

The collection contains 279 black-and-white photographic prints taken during the construction of the Alaska (Alcan) Highway from 1941 to 1942. The photographs were probably taken between Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, south to Fort St. John, British Columbia. Subjects of the photographs include: Company B 340th Engineers building, Soldiers Summit (mile 1601), Stockton Bridge on Aishihik River (Yukon), army camp life, construction equipment, ferries, fording rivers, cable crossings, dogs, horses, airplanes, boats, and trains.

AHFAM FIC Collection, B1993.005 (guide coming soon)

A sub-section of this FIC collection, the Charles A. Hurlbutt Jr. Photographs (.029-.065), include 36 black-and-white official photographs taken during planning for the Alaska Highway.

Dunwood Collection, B1993.022 (guide coming soon)

Includes 129 photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

Vern Brickley Collection, B1998.014

Vern Brickley came to Valdez, Alaska, in 1936 to work on a movie set. Just before WWII, he moved to Fairbanks and was drafted into the Army as a photographer. In 1940, he moved to Anchorage, worked for the Army at Fort Richardson, then was discharged in 1945. He traveled throughout the Aleutians during the Japanese invasion. In 1958, Brickley became a photographer for the Army Corps of Engineers, working at Elmendorf. Some of the images in this collection were traded. Items .1.3389-.1.3585 document Alaska Highway construction.

Alaska Highway Photographs, B2000.006

This collection consists of three booklets of photographs (each containing 40 images) and 95 loose photographs of scenes of Alaska Highway construction and life along the highway in the 1940s.

Albert G. Miller Photographs, B2002.016

Albert G. Miller was a worker on the Alaska Highway during its construction. The collection consists of 115 black-and-white photographs and postcards, some of which document the Alaska Highway construction.

Irvin Collection, B2005.001 (guide coming soon)

Includes 47 photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

Cheatham Collection, B2005.030 (guide coming soon)

Includes 323 photographs and negatives of Alaska Highway construction.

Erwin Mielke Collection, B2007.019 (guide coming soon)

Includes 180 photos of Alaska Highway construction.

George Carter Photographs, B2008.048 (guide coming soon)

Includes three photographs of the 18th U.S. Army Engineers constructing the Alaska Highway in 1942 in Yukon Territory.

Oris King Photograph Album, B2009.008 (guide coming soon)

Collection is 1 photo album "Army Corps of Engineers, 1945-47" documenting King's experience with the CoE, including construction of the Alaska Highway.

Alaska Highway Photograph Album, B2009.047 (guide coming soon)

Unprocessed album of photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

James J. Irvin Photograph Collection, B2009.050 (guide coming soon)

Includes approximately 30 photographs of Alaska Highway construction.

Robert Ewing Alaska Highway Construction Album, B2012.026

Robert Ewing worked on Alaska highway construction in the 1940s. This collection consists of 55 black-and-white prints of highway construction.

Alaska Road Commission Crew Portrait Photograph, B2013.052

This collection consists of one black-and-white 5x7" photograph of an Alaska Road Commission crew portrait. The men, mostly Alaska Natives, stand in a line in front of a small tent. The photo is annotated on the verso: "Stuart Nicolai, Faye Sarren's dad in the 1940's, first Road Commission crew in Glennallen."

At the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in 2013, the group was identified as the Highway Commission crew on the Nabesna Road to Slana. Names were supplied for several individuals, including from right to left: Patty King, Chitina; Mentasta Pete, Mentasta; Paul Snell, Gulkana; Bill Joe, Gakona/Chistochina; [?]; Frank Charley, Chistochina. At AFN 2015, man 5th from left identified as Ralph Sanford, man 4th from left as Buster Gene.

Yukon Territory Athapascan Indian Photographs, B2013.053

The collection consists of 17 black-and-white photographs of Native villagers and white priests, possibly taken somewhere in Yukon Territory near the route of the Alaska Highway during its

construction in the 1940s. The Indigenous people are likely Athapascan, possibly Gwich'in, Han, or Tutchone. Attendees of the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention tentatively identified image .13 as Christian Village, or Christian, a settlement 55 miles north of Fort Yukon, Alaska.

Mary Carle Collection, B2014.010

Mary Carle moved with her husband Wilmer to Alaska in 1947 and taught in the Anchorage School District. After Wilmer died, Mary remarried to Tom Hodgson. She retired from teaching in 1976. This collection includes 1 typescript memoir of Carle's trip up the Alaska Highway in 1947, as well as a pamphlet concerning the Alaska Highway, published 1947.

Joseph G. Rich Alaska Highway Collection, B2015.003

Joseph G. Rich served as a firefighter for the U.S. Army during the construction of the Alaska Highway. This collection consists of 9 black-and-white photographs and published ephemera of the Alaska Highway construction in 1942-1943.

William P. Freeborn Collection, B2016.007

This collection consists of slides, prints, travel logs, and ephemera pertaining to William Freeborn and his wife Mary Eleanor's trips to Alaska in 1975 and to Inuvik in 1986. The slides depict sites along the Alaska Highway, and the travel logs detail road conditions of the highway at the time.

John Snelling Slide Collection, B2016.010

This collection consists of 473 slides of Alaska, all purchased by John Snelling. Items .301-.304 depict the Alaska Highway in June 1981. Some images between items .305-.473 include a 1978 travel up the Alaska Highway.

Truman Markegard Collection, B2016.016

Truman Markegard worked on the Alaska Highway in 1943, stationed at construction camp 16E. This collection consists of two photograph albums containing 103 black-and-white snapshots of scenes from the construction of the Alaska Highway.

James E. Cook Collection, B2016.023

Frank Leslie McRae, his wife Betty, daughters Frankie and Vicki, and stepson Jim, traveled the Alaska Highway in 1954 and 1958. This collection includes two diaries that Betty kept documenting the trips, and 13 photographs the family took of the 1958 trip.

Nelson Family Photograph Album, B2017.009

Jon P. Nelson traveled to Anchorage with his father Everett, mother Helen, and brother Kent, in 1949 via the Alaska Highway. They settled in Spenard, where Everett worked as a mechanic on Fort Richardson, and the two sons attended school at North Star Elementary School. The family left Alaska, also via the Alaska Highway, in 1950. This collection consists of one photo album of 89 black-and-white images documenting the trips up and down the Alaska Highway in 1949 and 1950.

Helen Brown Slides, B2018.024

This collection includes 5 slides (.16-.20) of a trip on the Alaska Highway in 1959.

Publications relating to the Alaska Highway in the Atwood Resource Center Library

D768.15 D62 1992

The Alaska Highway in World War II: the U.S. Army of occupation in Canada's Northwest, Kenneth Coates, 1992

F901 .A266 v.10 no.1

Adventure Roads North: the story of the Alaska Highway and other roads in the Milepost, Alaska Geographic Society, 1983

F902.3 .R42 1992

Adventure Guide to the Alaska Highway, Ed Readicker-Henderson, 1992

F909.3 .S58 1963

Alaska Highway Sketches: souvenir and travel guide, Connie Silver, 1963

F909 .A5 1968-69

Alaska and the Alaska Highway, American Automobile Association, 1968

F909 .T47 1950

Alaska Highway & Travel Guide, business directory & almanac, Tewkesbury, 1948

RARE F909 .V5

View book of the Alaska Highway: a series of views done in genuine photogravure, 1943

F909 .W67 1990

The Road North: one woman's adventure driving the Alaska Highway, 1947-1948, Iris Woolcock, 1990

F1060 .B3 1944

Hitch-hiking the Alaska Highway, Gertrude Baskine, 1946

F1060.9 .C6 1943

Road to Alaska: the story of the Alaska Highway, Douglas Coe, 1943

F1060.9 .C63

The Trail of '42: a pictorial history of the Alaska Highway, Stan Cohen, 1979

F1060.9 .G75 2002

The World War II Black regiment that built the Alaska military highway: a photographic history, William E. Griggs, 2002

F1060.9 .M875 1985

Land of the Fireweed: a young woman's story of Alaska highway construction days, Hope Morritt, 1985

F1060.92 .B79 2011

The world-famous Alaska Highway: a guide to the Alcan & other wilderness roads of the North, Tricia Brown, 2011

F1060.92 .T85 1992

Northwest Epic: the building of the Alaska Highway, Heath Twichell, 1992

GV54 .A4 U5 1944

Recreational resources of the Alaska Highway and other roads in Alaska, United States National Park Service, 1944

HE356 .A4 K3 1992

The Alaska Highway [videorecording], Tom Morgan, 1992

HE356 .A4 L3

Highway to Alaska, Herbert C. Lanks, 1944

HE356 .A4 L4 1991

Golden Tales of the Alaska Highway, Steve Lindbeck, 1991

HE356 .A4 R45

Crooked Road: the story of the Alaska Highway, David A. Remley, 1976

HE356 .A4 U5 1946

The Alaska Highway. An interim report from the Committee on roads, House of representatives, pursuant to H. Res. 255, authorizing the Committee on roads, as a whole or by subcommittees, to investigate the federal road system, and for other purposes. U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1946

N8217 .A515 C63 2007

The Road: constructing the Alaska Highway, Kenneth Coates, 2007

RARE PN6101 .P48 1944

Poems commemorating construction of the Alaska Highway, Uncle Albert, c. 20th C

QE75 .P9 no.545-C

Effects of the earthquake of March 27, 1964, on the Alaska highway system, Reuben Kachadoorian, 1968

TE22 .C3 1941 v.1

Report on proposed highway through British Columbia and the Yukon territory to Alaska. August 1941, Ottawa, Ontario. Canada. British Columbia-Yukon-Alaska highway commission, 1941

TE24 .A4 C63 1992

ALCAN and CANOL: a pictorial history of two great World War II construction projects, Stan Cohen, 1992

TE24 .A4 V57 2013

The Black soldiers who built the Alaska Highway: a history of four U.S. Army regiments in the north, 1942-1943, John Virtue, 2013

TE25 .A4 T76

The Alaska Highway, Truck Tracks, 1944

TX910 .C2 G66 2017

Beyond Mile Zero: the vanishing Alaska Highway lodge community, Lily Gontard, 2017

MAP 1/3

Alaska Highway Map, 1961 [cartographic material], Rand McNally and Company, 1961