

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Parkison, Elmer

Papers of Elmer Parkison, 1963-1970

MS 4-22-17

3 folders

Processed By: Gladi Kulp  
June 2001  
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**ACQUISITION:** The manuscript was donated by Al Brawner, June 2001 (Acc. #2001-43). He drove to Elmer Parkison's home in Tok to make a copy of the diary, then mailed to the Alaska State Library and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The second donation of the Haines Cutoff Road documents arrived in August 2001, Acc. #2001-55 and was, again, facilitated by Al Brawner. In April 2002, Al Brawner donated an article from *Pacific Builder & Engineer* which was added to the collection.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The photocopies of the diaries and other papers are housed in acid-free containers.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Elmer Parkison was born in the Black Hills of South Dakota and came to Alaska in 1940. After serving under General Patton in World War II he returned to Alaska. He worked at Eielson Air Force Base and then for the Alaska Road Commission in 1949. He worked on various roads in Alaska's interior and as foreman of highway maintenance camps before retiring to Tok, Alaska in the early 1980's.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The diary contains the records Elmer Parkison kept while working on the Haul Road from the Yukon River to Prudhoe Bay, January 1 – April 7 1969. The foreword is written by Al Brawner. Folder 2 which contains a diary and various foreman's reports of the first winter public opening of the Haines Cutoff Road, 1963-1964, were added a few months later. Articles about the building of the Ice Road and notes from Parkison's log published in the *Pacific Builder and Engineer*, were added in 2002.

## INVENTORY

### ***Folder 1:***

Diary and notes by Elmer Parkison, foreman of the Winter Haul Road (Ice Road) from Livengood to Prudhoe Bay (Sagwon), January 1-April 7 1969

### ***Folder 2:***

Diary, correspondence, and reports by Parkison, foreman, Alaska Dept. of Highways, on the Haines Cutoff Road the first winter it was kept open to the public. The route was from Haines, Alaska to Haines Junction, Canada, 1963-1964.

### ***Folder 3:***

Articles: "How They Built the Ice Road" and "The Ice Road – A Foreman's Log," from the *Pacific Builder and Engineer*, v. 76, no. 6, March 20, 1970, p. 60-68.