

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

U.S. Federal Highway Administration Photograph Collection, ca. 1950-1980

PCA 244

2 Boxes

Processed by: Ken Nail, Jr., LAM

Revised: 5/2005

3071 images, b&w, color (est. 2000 color, 65%)

Revised by: Alea Oien, 3/2009

ACQUISITION: C.W. Seslar of the Juneau office of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration donated the collection to the library in 1984 (Acc. No. 1984-020).

ACCESS: The collection may be viewed, however, the photographs may not be photocopied. Some photographs in Vol. 14 are restricted.

COPYRIGHT: Requests for permission to reproduce or publish images from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The collection has been processed minimally, to the volume level. Photographs were left as they were acquired, stapled or glued to the road reports containing typed descriptions. Seventeen "volumes" were donated.

Historical Note

Until 1960, the federal government had responsibility for roads and bridges in Alaska: the Alaska Road Commission, under the War Dept., from 1905-1932, and the Interior Dept. from 1932 to 1956 when it was absorbed by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. In 1960, after statehood, Alaska State Department of Highways was organized and assumed responsibility for the State's highway program.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains views relating to the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in Alaska supervised by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Alaska Road Commission, U.S. Federal Highway Administration and the Alaska State Department of Highways. Volumes 2, 4, 6 and 7 were compiled by personnel of the 2nd Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army, following a 1957 road inspection trip.

A 1964 accident in Sitka is detailed in Vol. 14. Two workers, James, V. Howland and Noel O. Rill, of Fairbanks, were killed in the accident.

Volumes generally are arranged according to sections of the roads and further by mile post numbers. Many of the photographs are glued or stapled to typewritten reports describing that section of the road. Bridges are also identified. Vol. 16 and 17 contain loose photographs arranged geographically. There are also images of road construction equipment and road construction workers. The collection contains random negatives throughout.

Folder: PCA 244 Addition includes miscellaneous negatives - located in Box 3.

Inventory

- Vol. 1 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route: 1. From: Fairbanks to Paxson. 1957 [120 views of roads, bridges and culverts, each with written comments].
- Vol. 2 Alaska Highway Route Number One. 190 Miles Valdez to Paxson [77 views of Route I taken during a road reconnaissance by the U.S. Army, 2nd Engineer Battalion, June 1957].
- Vol. 3 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route 2. From: Delta Junction to the Canadian Border. 1957 [95 views showing road construction, including bridges, each with written descriptions].
- Vol. 4 Alaska Highway Route Number Three. 307 Miles: Anchorage to Tok Junction [110 views of the road, including bridge structures, taken by the U.S. Army, 2nd Engineer Battalion during a July 1957 reconnaissance].
- Vol. 5 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route: 3. From: Tetlin Junction to Eagle. 1957 [67 views of the road, including bridge structures, with written descriptions].

- Vol. 6 Alaska Highway Route Number Four. Anchorage to Seward E118 views of Route 4 taken during a reconnaissance trip by the U.S. Army, 2nd Engineer Battalion, June 1957].
- Vol. 7 Highway Route Number Five. 140 Miles. Road Junction to Homer [38 views of Route 5 taken during a reconnaissance trip by U.S. Army, 2nd Engineer Battalion, June 1957].
- Vol. 8 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route: 5A. From: Fairbanks to Nenana. 1957 [10 views of the road, including bridge structures, with written descriptions].
- Vol. 9 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route; 6. From: Fox to Circle. 1957 [117 views of roads, bridges and culverts, each with written descriptions].
- Vol. 10 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route: 7. From: Fairbanks to Livengood. 1957 [53 views of roads, bridges and culverts, each with written descriptions].
- Vol. 11 Alaska Highway and Bridge Report. Route: 8. From: Paxson to Kantishna. 1957 [32 views of roads, bridges and culverts, each with written descriptions].
- Vol. 12 [Hartney Bay -- Cordova area; Pioneer Road; Alaganik Slough; misc. road projects. 1962. 58 views, col., b&w.]
- Vol. 13 [93 color views of Highway Project AFH7-2(2) and FHW&-2(3) showing road construction work between May and November, 1963. No location given.]
- Vol. 14 [193 color views of the widening of Halibut Point road, Sitka. Includes account and photographs of April 20th accident which killed James V. Howland and Noel O. Rill, of Fairbanks]
- Vol. 15 [1964 Alaska earthquake; Juneau area roads; Southcentral Alaska roads and bridges; road maintenance equipment. 1955-1970. 290, color, b&w photographs and slides (est. 22, col.)]

Volumes 16 & 17: loose photographs sorted and filed by location.

- Vol. 16 [Bridge and road projects in the northern and southcentral areas of Alaska; 1957-1974. Approx. 800 color, b&w views.]
- Vol. 17 [Bridge and road projects in Southeast Alaska, 1970-1980. Approx. 800 color, b&w views.]

PCA 244 Addition [Miscellaneous negatives]