

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Lyon, Arthur Steen

Arthur Steen Lyon Photograph Collection, 1905-1906

PCA 299

92 black and white photos  
.5 inches

Processed: 1988  
By: India Spartz

**ACQUISITION:** The photographs were donated in 1988 by Edward P. Lyon, son of Arthur Lyon. Acc. # 1988-048.

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing, however the photographs may not be photocopied.

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

**PROCESSING:** The photographs are Alaska views which came from a larger album compiled by Arthur Steen Lyon. The photos were removed from deteriorated album pages and placed on acid-free paper and Mylar. A finding aid is available.

### Biographical Note

Arthur Steen Lyon was born March 5, 1883, in Newport, Minnesota. He married Gertrude Lorraine Andrews Sept. 6, 1911, in Massachusetts. He was a self-taught engineer and surveyor and worked on railroads throughout the United States. During 1905 and 1906, he worked on the surveyor crew of the Alaska Central Railroad and possibly the Copper River & Northwestern Railway in southeast Alaska. He died November 7, 1941, in Topeka, Kansas.

The Alaska Central Railroad Co. began in 1902. It started at Resurrection Bay (Seward) and tracks were laid to Kerns Creek near the head of Turnagain Arm before it foreclosed in 1909. The Alaska Northern Railroad purchased the tracks and equipment but did not complete any additional line before it was taken over by the new Alaska Railroad Commission. The Copper River & Northwestern Railway ran from Cordova to the Kennecott Mines. [From *Alaska's Heritage*, J. Antonson, W. Hanable.]

### Scope and Contents Note

The Arthur Steen Lyon collection of 92 photographs contains Alaska scenes from a larger collection of photos Mr. Lyon took while employed as a civil engineer in southeast Alaska and throughout the United States. These images include the Alaska Central Railroad and the Copper River & Northwestern in 1905-1906, surveyors, railroad construction, Copper River Natives, the Copper River, the Fairbanks to Valdez trail (later the Richardson Highway), and southeast Alaska scenics. Captions are taken from Arthur Lyon's descriptions which were written on the back of the images or on the album pages. Supplied information is in brackets. Some of the photographs were taken by Mr. Lyon's friend, "La Foy." Other photographers noted in the collection include Case and Draper and E.A. Hegg.

### Inventory

1. [An unidentified man standing in front of Valdez Sheet Metal and Plumbing Works, double exposure ca. 1906.]
2. C. R. & N. Engineer [ca. 1906 photo of Arthur Steen Lyon].
3. Revenue Cutter RUSH [Valdez Harbor, May 1906. Sugar Loaf Mountain in foreground]. (no. R2-10)
4. ? at home. Friends in Valdez, July 1906.
5. Valdez, plumbers [May, 1906]. (no. R1-9)

6. Resting by the way, June 1906 [four men sitting on top of a ridge].
7. Near Seward, Alaska. 1905 [eight men standing near tents with survey equipment].
8. Midday lunch on the Down River trip, 1906 [moving the camp, ca. 1906] (no. R10-5)
9. Surveyors Mess, Copper River survey [upper Copper River,1907]. LaVoy. (no. R5-9)
10. Caswell's party and camp at Moose Creek camp on the Matanuska Branch Survey Winter 1905-06 [Alaska Copper River Railroad. Locating party on the Alaska Central Railroad, winter 1905-1906].
11. Leisur [leisure] hours on Sunday [group of men with several natives standing around survey equipment]. (no. R8-4)
12. October 8, 1906. Last Camp [group of men standing outside tents with snow on the ground]. (no. R9-6)
13. A sample of the heavy rock work on the Matanuska Branch A.C. Ry. It was necessary here for the party to run parallel lines and spot points center by turning Rt [ricutt] angles [surveying].
14. [Unidentified man standing with a group of men and equipment, 1906.]
15. Level party, 1905-1906 [two men standing in snow with surveyor scope and measuring pole].
16. At mile 7 1/2 on the Matanuska Branch line of the A.C.Ry. The line came out of the woods and is supported around a steep cement gravel side hill, for 1 1/2 miles. The picture shows R.C. Wilkes and Wm. Rothwell taking topography on this line. Wilkes is on the center line [1906].
17. Chickaloon Coal Camp in Matanuska Valley. R.C. Wilkes and William Rothwell, topographers, in foreground. April 21st, 1906. The coal ledges lay in the hill on the left. "Topog Party", 1905-1906.
18. Roadhouse - Valdez to Fairbanks Trail [1906].
19. Off for the Interior, 1906 [two people hauling sleds over ice].

20. On the winter trail [two horses hauling materials with two men driving the team].
21. Near Thompson Pass. Valdez to Fairbanks trail [views of horsedrawn sleighs].  
LaVoy
22. Dog train [a dog team sitting in the snow with two men driving the sled, 1906].
23. Butterworth's camp at Teikhell (sic). Last camp on the River, 1906 [four tents on a riverbank]. (no. R9-3)
24. Camp barber shop [a man cutting hair]. (no. R10-1)
25. Butterworth's Camp at Teikhell [four tents on the riverbank, 1906] (no. R9-4)
26. At the mouth of the Teikhell River and Dewey Creek, 1906 [men with a boat crossing the river]. (no. R8-1)
27. Copper River Boatmen, C.R. and N. W. Ry. Co. [four men onshore towing a boat, one man inside the boat, 1906]. (no. R9-1)
28. Packing camp supplies and etc. around the rapids [1906]. (no. R11-2)
29. Bringing down the last boat [1906]. (no. R11-6)
30. Fred rustles and Bert chops [two men hauling a log from a small boat, 1906]. (no. R8-1)
31. Boating on the Copper [River, July 1906]. (no. R6-3)
32. Arrival at new camp. Last camp on the river [men unloading a boat, on a beach, August 1906]. (no. R7-5)
33. Social gathering on Copper River. Moving camp [1906]. (no. R10-3)
34. The last move up river. Last camp up river [1906]. (no. R8-5)
35. Never mind wet feet. Last camp up river. Lifting a ROSY JOE over a Bar [four men lifting a boat over a sandbar, September 1906]. (no. R7-4)
36. The ROSY JOE shooting the rapids like a duck. Their beds are in that boat: [two men following a small boat along a riverbank]. (no. R11-3)

37. Lining boats up the Taznuna River. Upper Copper River. LaVoy (no. R5-6)
38. Lining a boat through the Abercrombie Rapids [1906]. (no. R11-1)
39. Price's party arriving at Dewey Creek [1906]. (no. R10-2)
40. Childs Glacier [1906].
41. Pack train crossing a glacier [horse drawn sleighs and men with equipment on a glacier].
42. Childs Glacier on Copper River. LaVoy
43. In the Mountain Tops. Coast Range, Alaska [1907]. LaVoy
44. In the Mountain Tops. Coast Range, Alaska [1907]. LaVoy
45. Glacier on upper Chitna River.
46. Thunder Glacier on Copper River [1906]. (no. R8-2)
47. Panorama [view of Abercrombie Rapids Miles Glacier 1906]. (no. R10-4-5)
48. Scenery on the Matanuska R. [River, 1906].
49. Pretty Reflections. The TYONIC at Knik. Cook's [Cook] Inlet, Alaska, 1906. (no. R8-3)
50. [Unidentified mountain scene. Snow in the foreground with trees and mountains.]
51. Mouth of Resurrection Bay [near Child's Glacier, 1906]. (no. R1-2)
52. [Same as #51.]
53. Typical scenes on the Upper Copper River [ca. 1907]. LaVoy
54. Upper Copper River [ca. 1907]. LaVoy
55. [Unidentified rapids in a canyon.]
56. A September evening in Alaska [unidentified mountain with a waterway in foreground, 1906]. (no. R7-10)

57. A September Day in Alaska. (no. R7-9)
58. An August morning in Alaska [waterfront landscape viewing some mountains and trees]. (no. R7-1)
- 59/60 Common scenery along [along] the Copper River [two part view of mountain peak with trees in foreground, 1906]. (no. R7-6)
61. Bever [Beaver] Lake near Copper River. Last camp up River [1906]. (R7-2)
62. Copper River Indian [small Indian girl, 1906].
63. Copper River Native [a native woman holding a baby with a young child behind her, near dwellings, 1906].
64. Copper River Roy [a native man carrying packed materials on his back, tent in background, 1906]. (no. R6-8)
65. [Three men standing outside a restaurant.]
66. Copper River Indians near Valdez [1906]. LaVoy
67. Coast Native [two native girls standing near a riverbank].
68. The squaws pull loads equally as large as the men. They decided to stop for lunch at our camp. The party consisted of about 45 men women and children [several native people pulling a sled with other men in the distance, March 1906]. (no. 3)
69. The dogs are undersized runts from being ill fed, and too much work. They are very pitiful objects. The children ran up on the rock to be photographed [native men with sleds sitting near a big rock with children in the background. One dog stands in the foreground, 1906]. (no. 4)
70. [Group of native women and children gathered in a circle, 1906.]
71. They like to be photographed. The squaw is the prettiest ([prettiest] in the bunch, and turned her back to the Kodak. I said "all gone" and she looked around. Then I snapped her [group of native children and men standing on a riverbank with two native women on loaded sleds in foreground, 1906].
72. A stop for midday lunch [a group of natives sitting on a beach, eating lunch. 1906].

73. [Similar to #72.]
74. Taslena [Tazlina] Indians sledding on the Matanuska, winter 05-06. The dogs which are not used on the sleds are packed with dog fish (salmon) and sometimes the pack slips over on one side and the Indians allow him to stagger like this for miles. Note the log in the picture (see #1) [#1 not received, March 1906]. (no.2)
75. Do Alaska natives work [1905-06]. (no. R9-5)
76. Smoking salmon. Cache on left [smoked salmon operation on the banks of the river, 1906].
77. Mosquito netting (all summer) [1906].
78. The prospectors [three men near a riverbank, panning for gold, 1906]. (no. R7-8)
79. Scene on Matanuska R. [two men shooting rifles].
80. Cub bear pet in Price's party, 1906 [small bear cub chained up]
81. "Brady" the bear playing with a puppy. Cub bear pet in Price's Party, 1906. (no. R10-4)
82. [Dog with porcupine quills in its snout.]
83. Copper River chivalry [two men crossing the river to a large sandbar, 1906]. (no. R9-2)
84. Near Elko, Nevada [non-Alaska scene, group of surveyors, 1903].
85. Seldovia, Alaska. May 7th, 1906. Case and Draper
86. Kenai natives. Seldovia, Alaska. Case and Draper
87. Interior Russian Church. Seldovia, Alaska. Case and Draper
88. Hope, Alaska. May 4th, 1906. Case and Draper
89. [Surveyor crew. Arthur Steen Lyon on far right, with arms folded.]
90. The latest birdseye view of Seward, Alaska [ca. 1905].

- 91a. Miles Glacier. Copper River, Alaska [left part of panorama view]. E.A. Hegg
- 91 b. [Miles Glacier, second scene of 91a.] E.A. Hegg
- 92. [Unidentified town scene, probably not located in Alaska.]