

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Shorty MacKay and Gordon W. Luhman Photograph Collection

Alaska Highway Construction, ca. 1942

PCA 388

1 photo album
(409 photographs, b&w)

Processed: Aug. 1998
By: Debbie Finley,
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ACQUISITION: The album was donated by Carol Luhman Dotson of Saukville, Wisconsin, in 1998 (Acc. No. 1998-016).

ACCESS: The photos may be viewed, however the images may not be photocopied.

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PROCESSING: The photos are numbered. An inventory is available.

Biographical Note

The album was given to Luhman family by Shorty MacKay. MacKay was a former neighbor. No additional information is available about MacKay other than he served in the military during World War II.

Scope and Contents Note

Alaska Highway construction possibly during World War II, including road building machinery construction workers and construction camps. The photographs are not identified; information supplied by staff is bracketed. Some of the photographs show Alaska Native families, moose and bear.

Inventory

- 1 [Bridge under construction]
- 2 [Bridge under construction]
- 3 These are pictures of the bridge when it was being built.
- 4 [Dog with men]
- 5 [Dirt road]
- 6 [Piece of construction equipment submerged in water]
- 7 [Group of men standing at flooded road]
- 8 [Construction site with men and equipment in distance]
- 9 [Group of men looking at water next to roadway under construction]
- 10 [Heavy equipment operator moving dirt and debris]
- 11 [Previously flooded area roped off]
- 12 [Heavy equipment working on part of road washed out by flood]
- 13 [Debris from flooding after drained]
- 14 [Washed out portion of road]
- 15 [Rapids of creek or river]
- 16 [Equipment and barrels in water, men in raincoats retrieving]
- 17 [Wide shot of water with barrels scattered throughout]
- 18 [Men retrieving barrels from water]
- 19 [Area beneath bridge washed out from flooding]
- 20 [Heavy equipment covered with debris from flooding]
- 21 [Heavy equipment on road construction site]
- 22 [Heavy equipment and workers on site]
- 23 [View from road]
- 24 [Heavy equipment in action, view from above]
- 25 [Six men on boardwalk in front of The Canadian Bank of Commerce]
- 26 [Black bear at a garbage dump near construction site]
- 27 [Buildings and equipment, view from above]
- 28 [Bear leaving area]
- 29 [Suspension bridge, left side]
- 30 [Group of buildings]
- 31 [Suspension bridge, right side]

- 32 [Suspension bridge from below, left]
- 33 [Barge ferrying cars and trucks on river]
- 34 [Man sitting near river]
- 35 [Aerial view of] base camp
- 36 [Man seated by signs: U.S. Army 35th Engrs, highway, and airport freight]
- 37 [Men standing near sign: Sikanni Chief River, First Permanent Bridge completed on the Alaska Highway, "Sikanni Chief" River Bridge, 2350]
- 38 [Swollen river with logs floating]
- 39 [Framework for bridge construction]
- 40 [Bridge with buildings in background]
- 41 [Bridge construction in action]
- 42 [Bridge construction in action]
- 43 [Cutting ribbon for opening of Sikanni Chief River Bridge, same sign as #37]
- 44 [First trucks and pedestrians to cross bridge]
- 45 [Aerial view of bridge]
- 46 [View of people crossing bridge]
- 47 [Bridge]
- 48 [View from road]
- 49 [Bridge]
- 50 [View from road]
- 51 [Bridge in winter]
- 52 [River scene]
- 53 [Blasting for roadwork]
- 54 [Bridge]
- 55 [Blasting for roadwork]
- 56 [Base camp?]
- 57 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 58 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 59 [Winter, men at camp]
- 60 [Roadwork in distance]
- 61 [People on bridge, looking at river, buildings in distance]
- 62 [Blasting for roadwork]
- 63 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 64 [Vehicle on side, cargo dumped]
- 65 [View of road]
- 66 [Heavy equipment and operators]
- 67 [View of road, some snow]
- 68 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 69 [Heavy equipment fallen over embankment]
- 70 [Worker standing on rocky shore of river]
- 71 [Heavy equipment fallen on side, load scattered]
- 72 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 73 [Northwest Service Command bus on bridge, some ice in water]
- 74 [View of road curving around hill]
- 75 [View of road in distance across river]
- 76 [View of road in distance]
- 77 [Man seated on rocky shore of river]
- 78 [View of base camp? In distance, winter]
- 79 [Heavy equipment in action at base camp?]

- 80 [View of construction in distance]
- 81 [Flooded base camp? Building and heavy equipment partially submerged]
- 82 [Landscape view with river]
- 83 [Landscape view from above, with river]
- 84 [Men at camp with baby moose]
- 85 [Two baby moose, one nibbling on a man's finger]
- 86 [Landscape with river]
- 87 [Landscape with river]
- 88 [Man with two fish next to river]
- 89 [Valley with snowy peaks in distance]
- 90 [Valley with snowy peaks in distance]
- 91 [Two men, each with a fish, next to river]
- 92 [Crashed truck, high contrast]
- 93 [Crashed truck, low contrast]
- 94 [Man next to sign reading: Suicide Hill 500 ft. ahead]
- 95 [Vehicle traveling down hill in distance]
- 96 [View from road]
- 97 [River canyon]
- 98 [Valley with snowy peaks in distance]
- 99 [Small group of buildings next to river]
- 100 [Dawson (Dawson Hotel)]
- 101 [Town (Dawson?)]
- 102 [Pack mules moving through newly cleared area]
- 103 [Pack mules moving along dirt road]
- 104 [Road meets river]
- 105 [Blasting in newly cleared area]
- 106 [Vehicles driving on road, snow on landscape]
- 107 [Vehicles crossing bridge, snow all around]
- 108 [Icy river]
- 109 [Bridge in distance]
- 110 [Road along large body of water]
- 111 [Large body of water, some snow]
- 112 [Valley with snowy peaks in distance]
- 113 [River cutting across landscape]
- 114 [River and hills]
- 115 [Tent? With snow and icicles]
- 116 [Road in winter]
- 117 [River with ice]
- 118 [Road in mountains, winter]
- 119 [Road near mountain]
- 120 [Road near snowy mountain]
- 121 [Trucks near Quonset hut , mountain, winter]
- 122 [River and trees, remains of avalanches behind]
- 123 [Fleet of trucks, canopy in background]
- 124 [Road in winter]
- 125 [Man on running board of cab of huge tractor trailer]
- 126 [Wrecked truck, on door: Alcan Highway 3095]
- 127 [Mountains reflected in water]
- 128 [Men talking on boardwalk among trees, base camp?]

- 129 [Heavy equipment, one on side]
- 130 [Heavy equipment getting loaded up]
- 131 [Clearing for construction, smoke in distant background]
- 132 [River boat on truck trailer bed]
- 133 [Black bear crossing road]
- 134 [Ferry on river pushing barge with truck]
- 135 [Bear near road]
- 136 [Bear near road]
- 137 [Baby moose in corral]
- 138 [Swollen river with logs floating]
- 139 [Black bear near road]
- 140 [Black bear near road]
- 141 [Bear climbing a tree]
- 142 [Cow moose]
- 143 [Bear in tree, barely visible]
- 144 [Feeding frenzy of bears at trash heap]
- 145 [Landscape with mountains in distance]
- 146 [Road cutting across landscape]
- 147 [Winter scene at construction site?]
- 148 [River scene]
- 149 [Sun reflecting off water]
- 150 [Tent in brush]
- 151 [Bridge over water, mountains in distance]
- 152 [Winter scene]
- 153 [Road, mountains in distance]
- 154 [Landscape, some snow]
- 155 [Tents in snowy area, mountain in background]
- 156 [Bridge building with logs]
- 157 [Snow-covered road with mountain in distance]
- 158 [Valley with snowy mountains in distance]
- 159 [Truck on side off winter road]
- 160 [Muddy road]
- 161 [Two cow moose swimming across water]
- 162 [One cow moose swimming]
- 163 [Road extending ahead, down hill]
- 164 [Tents along waterside]
- 165 [Aerial view of river]
- 166 [Snowy landscape]
- 167 [Valley with snowy mountains in distance]
- 168 [Base camp]
- 169 [Snowy landscape, similar to 166]
- 170 [Truck completely flipped over]
- 171 [Float plane, two men standing nearby]
- 172 [Road construction site]
- 173 [River through snowy landscape]
- 174 [Float plane moving on water]
- 175 [Convoy of trucks on road]
- 176 [Jeep alongside road in snow]
- 177 [Wooden bridge construction]

- 178 [A base camp]
- 179 [Three men sitting on front bumper of truck]
- 180 [Wooden bridge construction]
- 181 [Bear standing on log]
- 182 [Bear walking along side of building]
- 183 [Bear in clearing]
- 184 [Men feeding bear]
- 185 [Team of standing sled dogs and man with sled]
- 186 [Team of sitting sled dogs and man with sled]
- 187 [Baby moose on lead with group of men watching]
- 188 [Bear in construction area]
- 189 [Wide, graded dirt road]
- 190 [Bear in construction area]
- 191 [Bear in clearing]
- 192 [Bear in construction area]
- 193 [Vehicles stopped on road, light snow]
- 194 [Three sled dogs hitched to sled]
- 195 [Truck stuck in mud, other trucks passing by]
- 196 [Native village?]
- 197 [[Home of natives? With man, woman and child outside]
- 198 [Bear in construction area]
- 199 [Bear in construction area]
- 200 [Bear walking by piles of logs, man watching]
- 201 [Bear in clearing]
- 202 [Landscape]
- 203 [Landscape, snowy mountains in background]
- 204 [Landscape]
- 205 [Snow alongside of road]
- 206 [Landscape with snow]
- 207 [Mountain landscape with snow]
- 208 [Roadside with snow]
- 209 [Road cutting through snowy landscape]
- 210 [From high above, valley with snowy mountains in distance]
- 211 [Wrecked vehicle]
- 212 [Animal prowling]
- 213 [Wrecked vehicle]
- 214 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 215 [Moose swimming in water at a far distance]
- 216 [Northwest Service Command USA bus in snowy ditch beside road]
- 217 [Snowy landscape scene with footprints]
- 218 [Large body of water and hills beyond]
- 219 [Flipped vehicle or chassis]
- 220 [Landscape by water]
- 221 [Roadway]
- 222 [Landscape by road]
- 223 [Landscape with water]
- 224 [No photo- mis-numbered]
- 225 [Large body of water]
- 226 [Landscape with mountain]

- 227 [Forest fire]
- 228 [Landscape]
- 229 [Landscape]
- 230 [Forest fire]
- 231 [Long sticks set up for tepee]
- 232 [Landscape with mountain]
- 233 [Covering over sticks for tepee]
- 234 [Float plane on water]
- 235 [Float plane on water]
- 236 [Truck and people on snowy road]
- 237 [Smoldering remains of fire]
- 238 [Long, wide stretch of graded dirt road]
- 239 [Wooden bridge across water]
- 240 [Forest fire]
- 241 [Group of men with bear]
- 242 [Cabins in distance, logs and person's back]
- 243 [Landscape]
- 244 [Building in snow]
- 245 [Rustic cabin with snowshoes dangling from roof]
- 246 [Vehicles bogged in mud in newly cleared area]
- 247 [Men with bear]
- 248 [Vehicles, men on road]
- 249 [Vehicle at camp]
- 250 [Two bears in construction area]
- 251 [Two bears in construction area]
- 252 [Tents in foreground, heavy equipment in background]
- 253 [Landscape with road, buildings]
- 254 [Men with bear]
- 255 [Sled with dogs by cabin]
- 256 [Sleds, men in woods]
- 257 [Tents in foreground, mountain in background]
- 258 [Sled dogs pulling loaded sled across snow]
- 259 [Man posing in front of building with pair of moose antlers]
- 260 [Sled dogs in snow]
- 261 [Rustic cabin with sled dogs, man posing]
- 262 [Sled dogs pulling loaded sled]
- 263 [Two sled dog teams with sleds on snow, one person with them]
- 264 [Jeep submerged in creek]
- 265 [Man chopping tree]
- 266 [Road turning to go downhill]
- 267 [Float plane on water]
- 268 [Sawmill operation]
- 269 [Native? man by tent sawing wood in snow]
- 270 [Five African American men dressed for labor]
- 271 [Native woman with baby outdoors in snow by building]
- 272 [Snow covered stacks of wooden crates, some covered with tarps]
- 273 [Wooden crates in foreground, tent in background]
- 274 [Building with sign, "Hudson's Bay Company"]
- 275 [Single-file line of vehicles in snow]

- 276 Here is one of the trucks [with man posing in front]
 277 [Six people in a boat]
 278 [Road with landscape]
 279 [Landscape with road?]
 280 [Landscape, road in foreground]
 281 [Group of buildings]
 282 [Construction site]
 283 [Sled dogs, man with sled]
 284 [Man with sled, dogs pulling across bare ground]
 285 [Man on horse looking at dead fox slung in crook of tree branch]
 286 [Sled dogs pulling sled across snow]
 287 [Man posing on roadside]
 288 [Mules pulling wagon, stuck in marshy spot]
 289 [Airplane on ground]
 290 [Group in heavy winter clothes in corral with white flag, tepee, cabin in background]
 291 [Priest(? collar) standing on float of plane on water]
 292 [Yukon Southern airplane on ground]
 293 [Native? man with pipe, graying beard]
 294 [Native family: man, woman, two children]
 295 [Three young men posing]
 296 [Natives sitting in shade near tent]
 297 [Old Native woman]
 298 [Two men]
 299 [Two young men eating camp meal, horse and wagon in background]
 300 [Native woman and white? man]
 301 [Two men cooking over open fire in woods]
 302 [Two Native boys]
 303 [Three workers in front of heavy equipment]
 304 [Landscape, road in distance]
 305 [Landscape]
 306 [Three men between two tepee frames]
 307 [Landscape, tents , mountains, water]
 308 [Wooden crates in snow]
 309 [Dog (sick/ dead) on truck bed surrounded by men]
 310 [Buildings in woods]
 311 [Native woman standing by door of cabin]
 312 [Bear on hind legs taking food from man on stoop above]
 313 [Two Native women and five children]
 314 [Four Native boys by tents]
 315 [Wooden lean-to covered with dirt]
 316 [Two tepee frames?]
 317 [Heavy equipment in action]
 318 [Heavy equipment]
 319 [Heavy equipment]
 320 Rusco [group of six men posing in front of heavy equipment]
 321 [Base camp? after ice storm]
 322 [Landscape with man posing]
 323 [Jeep stuck in mud in newly cleared area]
 324 [Landscape]

- 325 This is smoke from a fire [great billowing clouds]
 326 [Airplane]
 327 [Group posed in front of "... Pioneer Store" - two men, one woman, one child, one dog]
 328 [Native family, man, woman, four children, dog]
 329 [Man in front of wooden lean-to covered with dirt (same structure as 315)]
 330 [Four Native women, one older, three younger, in front of log building]
 331 [Landscape]
 332 [Landscape]
 333 [Road through trees, headed toward mountains]
 334 Apr 16 1943 [Wide expanse of road into distance]
 335 Apr 16 1943 [Broad expanse of road into distance]
 336 [Flipped-over flatbed truck]
 337 Apr 16 1943 [Group pulling truck from embankment back up to road]
 338 [Wrecked truck]
 339 Apr 16 1943 [Truck on its side]
 340 Apr 16 1943 [Expanse of road into distance]
 341 [Road winding down small hill and around corner]
 342 [Landscape]
 343 [Vehicles on road construction site]
 344 Apr 16 1943 [Buildings, radio? tower]
 345 [Alcan Highway Control Station cabin with men standing around]
 346 [Two men posing by door of Office Camp Manager]
 347 [Man posing in front of clothesline with long underwear hanging on it]
 348 [Landscape]
 349 [Road with vehicles, buildings]
 350 [Man with rock from slide?]
 351 Apr 16 1943 [Road curving to left]
 352 [Town, "Dawson Creek Motors Service Station"]
 353 [Bus to Athabasca, people milling about]
 354 Apr 16 1943 [Town]
 355 Apr 16 1943 [Building in town]
 356 [Group of men with animal]
 357 [Group of men watching something on ground]
 358 [Group of men posing with animal]
 359 [Group of men with animal]
 360 [White man with Native family, man, woman, 4 children (same family as 328)]
 361 [Small house, ponies?]
 362 [Native family, man, woman, three children (same family as 294 except additional older child)]
 363 [Four Native children, woman mostly out of frame (same family as 328, 360)]
 364 [Expanse of road, mountain in distance]
 365 [Newly cleared area, trees]
 366 Apr 16 1943 [Sign, "Hudson's Bay Company" near building, in snow]
 367 [Truck in water (stuck?)]
 368 [Heavy equipment]
 369 [Heavy equipment in action]
 370 [Heavy equipment in action]
 371 [Heavy equipment in action]
 372 [Heavy equipment]

- 373 [Heavy equipment on its side]
- 374 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 375 [Man posing in front of loaded truck, P-9874]
- 376 [Three workers and dog on construction site]
- 377 [Heavy equipment in action]
- 378 [Two men in foreground, two men in background on construction site]
- 379 [Five men posing in front of building with sign: "Office, F. Nagel, W. Heegel, J. Boyle, J. Rowe, M. Nelson"]
- 380 [Wrecked truck on roadside]
- 381 [Buildings]
- 382 [Two workers next to truck, P1041, on construction site]
- 383 [Heavy equipment on construction site]
- 384 [Roadside landscape]
- 385 [Landscape with bridge]
- 386 [Cat and skunk]
- 387 [Fire ravaged forest after snowfall]
- 388 [Sled dogs pulling sled across snow]
- 389 [Landscape]
- 390 [Roadside ice formation]
- 391 [Roadside landscape with picturesque sky]
- 392 [Roadside landscape]
- 393 [Ice formations]
- 394 [Milepost 191, cinders on snowy road]
- 395 [Man next to signpost: New York 3,600; Chicago 2,700; Edmonton 1215; Lower Post 15 ½; Watson Lake 8; Liard River 8; Whitehorse 322; Teslin 172; Tokyo 4,000]
- 396 [Long bridge over water, snow]
- 397 [Roadside landscape]
- 398 [Same man as 396 next to sign: Golden Spike Bridge, Contact Creek]
- 399 [Road following winding course of river]
- 400 [Roadside landscape]
- 401 [Airplane on ground]
- 402 [Roadside landscape with truck]
- 403 'Shadows" [Snow covered trees]
- 404 [Bridge over snowy expanse]
- 405 [Airplane in air]
- 406 [Sternwheeler in water]
- 407 [Flatbed truck by building with sign, "Central Livery Bar[n]," and with one large "R" beginning each of the following: Rickety Rigs, Runaway horses, Reckless drivers]
- 408 [Young man near vehicle]
- 409 [Three Native children by cabin]