

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Merrill, John, Photographer**

**John Merrill Slide Collection, ca. 1967-1973**

**PCA 409**

149, 35mm slides, col.

Processed: May 2000  
By: Gladi Kulp  
M.C. Harris

**ACQUISITION:** John Merrill donated the slides to the Alaska State Library in March and May 2000, Acc. nos. 00-19 and 00-28.

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

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

**PROCESSING:** The slides were organized according to place. A second set of slides received later, were added to the end of the collection. Slides were numbered and housed in mylar.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

From the mid-1960's to the mid-1970's John Merrill was Assistant Regional Administrator for the Office of Community Planning and Management, Seattle Region 10, Office of U.S. Housing and Urban Development. Region 10 included the Pacific Northwest States and Alaska. His job was to work with the states and communities to help them plan for housing, water, and sewer facilities. He traveled extensively throughout Alaska and worked with many state and community leaders. According to Merrill, he "learned a lot about the communities and the people of Alaska. [He] always enjoyed the people and their energy to help their communities. [He] took pictures to help show the state to other[s] that were not fortunate enough to get there."

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Slides were taken by John Merrill in the course of his work with HUD in the 1960's-1970's. Places photographed include Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, King Island Village in Nome, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nenana, Palmer, Sitka, St. Paul Island, and others.

## INVENTORY

Slides 1-123 were arranged and described in March 2000. A second set of slides, 124-149 was received in May 2000 and added to the end of the collection.

### Anchorage

- 1 Portage Glacier near Anchorage, July 1967
- 2 Snow and fog at airport, Nov. 1970
- 3 Float plane base, Feb. 1967
- 4 Downtown Anchorage, Feb. 1967
- 5 Downtown and earthquake area, Feb. 1967

### Barrow

- 6 Arctic Ocean - 2 natives fishing in far left of picture, Oct. 17, 1969
- 7 Arctic Research Lab, US Navy, Oct. 17, 1969
- 8 Residential area - gas line to houses on empty oil drums - ducks hanging by house frozen for meat, Oct. 17, 1969
- 9 Presbyterian minister house, Oct. 17, 1969
- 10 Cemetery, Oct. 17, 1969
- 11 Umiak (skin boat), Oct. 17, 1969

### Bethel

- 12 Downtown Bethel, Oct 15, 1969
- 13 Liquor store downtown, Oct. 15, 1969
- 14 Oldest commercial building in Bethel, Oct. 15, 1969
- 15 Moravian Church, Oct. 15, 1969

- 16 City Hall and jail, Oct. 15, 1969
- 17 Bethel, Oct. 1969
- 18 Bethel, Oct. 1969
- 19 Training & care for pre-natal [building] (OEO & city sponsored, Oct. 15, 1969
- 20 Eskimo housing, Oct. 15, 1969
- 21 Pre-fab housing on site, Oct. 15, 1969
- 22 Pre-fab housing construction, Oct. 15, 1969
- 23 Pre-fab housing on site - white thing in picture is a sewage pump station. It has been sprayed with insulation and will be unlined except for the top part, Oct. 15, 1969
- 24 Pre fab housing construction, Oct. 15, 1969

### **Fairbanks**

- 25 Chamber of Commerce building, May 1967
- 26 University of Alaska, May 1967
- 27 Fairbanks log house with cache, May 1967

### **Juneau**

- 28 Air view, May 1967
- 29 Juneau Million dollar golf course - top of gold mine tailings, May 1967
- 30 Juneau-Douglas Gastineau Channel, May 1967
- 31 Russian Church, May 1967
- 32 Mendenhall Glacier, May 1967
- 33 Air View [commercial]
- 34 Baranof Hotel, Franklin Street [commercial]

### **Ketchikan**

- 35 Tressle? Street, May 1967
- 36 Creek Street, May 1967
- 37 Residential Street, May 1967
- 38 Ketchikan Street, May 1967
- 39 Sea plane landing at port, May 1967
- 40 Ingersoll Hotel [commercial]
- 41 Ravenflood Totem [commercial]
- 42 Ketchikan [commercial]
- 43 Water Street [commercial]
- 44 Chief Skowl Totem Pole [commercial]
- 45 Ceremonial House, Totem Bight [commercial]
- 46 Thomas Boat Basin [commercial]

### **King Island Village, Nome**

- 47 Native carver, King Island Village, May 1971
- 48 King Island Dancers, May 1971
- 49 King Island Dancers, May 1971
- 50 King Island fishing camp, Sept. 12, 1972
- 51 Kind Island Fishing Camp, Sept. 12, 1972

**Kodiak**

- 52 Kodiak street -statue of bear in back of picture was erected in memory of Mardsens dad-starting bear hunting industry, Feb. 1967
- 53 Movie theater, Feb. 1967

**Kotzebue**

- 54 Houses, May 1971
- 55 Sled & snowmobile & ice, May 1971
- 56 Dog team, May 1971
- 57 Eskimo child, May 1971
- 58 Kotzebue, May 1971
- 59 Insulated water pipe, May 1971
- 60 Eskimo child, May 1971
- 61 Chunk of jade, May 1971
- 62 Reindeer heads, May 1971
- 63 Downtown, May 1971
- 64 Midnight - looking North, May 1971
- 65 [Houses], May 1971
- 66 House, May 1971
- 67 Ice water supply, May 1971
- 68 [Two men], Sept. 12, 1973
- 69 Kotzebue from the air, July 1967
- 70 Housing - dog sled, July 1967
- 71 Swedish airplane good for arctic flying, July 1967
- 72 Houses, July 1967

**Nenana**

- 73 [Houses seen through trees along road], May 1967
- 74 Mission, May 1967
- 75 [Dwellings along road], June 1967

**Nome**

- 76 Area, July 1967
- 77 Downtown, July 1967
- 78 Cemetery, July 1967
- 79 Historical marker, May 1971
- 80 Historical marker, May 1971
- 81 Main Street, May 1971
- 82 Beach, Sept. 12, 1972
- 83 Beltz School, regional high school, May 1971
- 84 Main Street, May 1971
- 85 Street scene, May 1971
- 86 Gold dredge, Sept. 12, 1972
- 87 Umiak, May 1971
- 88 Main Street, May 1971
- 89 Berring Housing Project, Sept. 12, 1972

- 90 Kitchen- turnkey house, May 1971
- 91 Eskimo gathering a weed for tea, May 1971
- 92 King Island Fishing Camp, Sept. 12, 1972
- 93 King Island Village, Sept. 12, 1972
- 94 King Island Village, statue in rear, Virgin Mary, Sept. 12, 1972

**Palmer**

- 95 Downtown Mantanuska [Matanuska] Valley, May 1967
- 96 Downtown, May 1967

**Sitka**

- 97 Downtown, Main Street, re-constructing church, Oct., 1967
- 98 Presbyterian School [Sheldon Jackson], Oct. 1967
- 99 Harbor, Oct. 1967
- 100 Ferry from airfield, Oct. 1967
- 101 Off-shore islands taken from fort mock up, Oct. 1967
- 102 Totem Pole at National Monument, Oct. 1967
- 103 Historical Building, Oct. 1967
- 104 Russian Block house, Oct. 1967

**St. Paul Island**

- 105 Seal skin processing sheds in foreground. Oil tanks on top of hill, March 21, 1972
- 106 (Baidar) (Bidarrak) pronounced (by-dar) a Russian Skin boat used for carrying supplies from ship to shore (made of canvas or skin), 1972
- 107 Hotel, March 21, 1972
- 108 Airport - charter plane, March 21, 1972
- 109 Inside Russian Orthodox Church building, March 21, 1972
- 110 City, March 21, 1972

**Whitehorse to Juneau**

- 111 [Mountains], July 1967
- 112 [Ice cap], July 1967
- 113 [Ice cap], July 1967
- 114 [Ice cap], July 1967

**Clear**

- 115 Alaska RR, Early Warning System [Clear missile early warning station] June 1967

**McGrath**

- 116 General store, July 1967

**Petersburg**

- 117 [Air view], May 1967

**Wrangell**

118 [Air view], May 1967

**Saxman**

119 Totem Pole Park – near Ketchikan, May 1967

**Homer**

120 Airport

**Kenai Peninsula**

121 Moose, June 1968

122 Moose, June 1968

**Mt. McKinley**

123 [View from] Alaska RR

**Barrow**

124 Honey bucket, Top of the World Hotel, Oct. 17, 1969

125 Room, Top of the World Hotel, Oct. 17, 1969

126 Top of the World Hotel w/ Art Hootenberger, Oct. 17, 1969

127 Ice stored in front of house to be thawed for water use, Oct. 17, 1969

128 Downtown, Oct. 17, 1969

129 Houses w/overhead gas line at intersection, Oct. 17, 1969

**Bethel**

130 Kids, Oct. 15, 1969

131 Eskimo housing, Oct. 15, 1969

**Kenai Peninsula**

132 Jack [holding] fish, June 1968

**Ketchikan [to Juneau]**

133 Mts. [mountains enroute], May 1967

**Kotzebue**

134 Fried chicken store, May 1971

135 Downtown, July, 1967

136 Houses, May 1971

137 [Two people on beach watching boat in water], Sept. 12, 1972

138 Water, non-toxic organisms (?) in water, May 1971

139 Dog team and sled, May 1971

140 Dog sled and snowmobile, May 1971

141 Dog team staked out, July 1967

**Nome**

142 King Island village housing, July 1967

143 King Island village area, boats – umiaks, July 1967

144 King Island fishing camp, salmon and seal drying, July 1967

145 King Island dances, May 1971

**North Pole**

146 Fairbanks - North Pole, Alaska, Santa's house, Aug. 1967

**St. Paul Island**

147 Russian Orthodox Church building, March 21, 1972

148 Inside Russian Orthodox Church building, March 21, 1972

**Seward**

149 [Street on waterfront, buildings, cars in foreground], Aug. 1972