

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Burns, Roy F.**

**Burns Photograph Collection, South Central Alaska, 1920s**

**PCA 425-12**

1 folder  
143 b&w prints,  
1 colorized print  
13 negatives  
1 personal letter

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**ACQUISITION:** The Burns Collection was donated by Mrs. Helen Waldorf, Mrs. Elsie Wagner Burns' step-sister, on behalf of Roy F. Burns, to the Alaska State Archives on Feb. 20, 1986. The Alaska State Archives transferred the collection to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections, March 17, 1994. Accessioned as 1994-007.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at item level. All prints have been placed in Mylar, and into a pH-neutral folder. Negatives have been sleeved and separated.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Mrs. Elsie Wagner Burns and her husband, Roy F. Burns, lived and worked in Anchorage and McCarthy in the 1920s. They collected the items in this collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Burns Collection contains 144 images of the mining and living conditions in Alaska in 1919-1925, at Kennecott, Nizina, and McCarthy, Alaska. Photos include images of: pilot Noel Wien, railroads, and other Alaska transportation, homesteads, mining camps, placer mining, animals, and natural and human constructed features. There is also a personal letter dated Sept. 27, 1924.

## INVENTORY

### Folder 1 of 1

- 1a. Letter: Sept. 27, 1924, to Elmer G. Wagner, Ontario, from Mrs. Roy F. Burns.
1. "Buluga Canyon upper end 60 miles from Anchorage due West" [man and dogsled team in canyon]
2. [Snow-covered house; unidentified location]
3. [House in unidentified location]
4. "Hurricane Gulch. highest span bridge in North America" [Train crossing bridge]
5. "Million Dollar Bridge, Copper River R. R., Alaska" "615 A. Winchmeyer, 3914 Burke Ave. Seattle, Wash. [Photographer]" [Message on reverse]
6. "Wharf and Clam Cannery at Cordova, Alaska" "272-D A. Winchmeyer, 3914 Burke Ave. Seattle, Wash. [Photographer]"
7. "Summer in Cordova Alaska" "Business section of Cordova, Alaska" "A. Winchmeyer, 3914 Burke Ave. Seattle, Wash. [Photographer]"
8. "Winter travel in the interior of Alaska" [Dog sled team w/musher]
9. [Homes in winter, unidentified location]
10. [9 wall tents in a line above a river bank – see also picture 27]
11. [Young woman standing on a rocky path at elevation; carries walking stick]

12. "Along the beach - Anchorage, Alaska, showing ice & snow June- 24 [1924]
13. "An immense rock in amongst ice and snow; Anchorage, Alaska, June 1924"
14. [Woman poses up against house] "Anchorage, Alaska; June 1924; With Love from Sis"
15. [Young woman sawing log] "Anchorage, Alaska; June 1924; With Love from Sis"
16. "An immense rock in amongst ice and snow; Anchorage, Alaska, June 1924"
17. "The shore at Anchorage, Alaska, covered with ice & snow - June 1924"
18. [Two fat reindeer tethered inside a tall fence eating]
19. [4 people standing next to Alaska railroad dining car, Elsie on right]
20. [3 young women pose by a railroad car, Elsie in center]
21. "A Beautiful Sunset - Anchorage, Alaska, June 1924" [2 copies]
22. "A Beautiful Sunset in the month of June - Anchorage, Alaska, - 24, for Elmer with love from Sis." [3 copies]
23. "Anchorage - Alaska, June 1 - 24. Trying to get Peg to smile"
24. [Unidentified island]
25. "Our first home in Anchorage, Alaska, June - 1922"
26. "Picture of a milk delivery in Alaska"
27. "Nizina, Alaska - May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1920 - this camp is almost buried in snow; altitude 4000 feet" [2 copies]
28. "Lake Spinard - Anchorage, Alaska - July 1922; age 23" [Rocky hillside - unidentified location]
29. [Two wall tents on mountainside]
30. [riverbed in winter]
31. [4 men on horseback in river]
32. "Alaska 1921 - The Old Way," Prospector washing 'pay dirt' in a 'hand rocker'."
33. [Double exposure - Mining camp and log cabins at unidentified location and miners panning gold in a stream]

34. [Man standing on head on narrow plank]
35. "Hunting party in camp - 1921" [Campsite with 2 men, 2 horses and tent - 2 copies]
36. [2 men stand at doorway to cabin; snowshoes hang on exterior wall above stack of firewood]
37. [2 men and 1 woman in front of cabin]
38. [Man standing in waders on rocky land]
39. [Cabin in woods]
40. "Murphy" Seward, Alaska [Postcard with picture of dog heavily laden with pack and supplies - message on reverse]
41. "Canadian Lynx ... the skin measured 5ft 2inches" [Lynx caught in trap]
42. "Alaska 1921 - 'Whip-sawing lumber'" [2 copies]
43. "Alaska 1921 - 'Filling a trip-dam on White Creek near Rex.'" [two copies]
44. "Alaska 1921 - Pack-train leaving Brown's Roadhouse near the Nizina River." [2 copies]
45. [Group of men standing men with shovels]
46. "Alaska 1921 - Sluiceway of an automatic trip-dam, used [in] placer mining" [2 copies]
47. "Alaska 1921 - Chitistone River"
48. "Our camp on the trail, Beluga River"
49. "Alaska 1921 - Construction of an automatic trip-dam at the head of Rex Creek" [2 copies]
50. Copy 2 of item #49
51. "Alaska 1921 - Dam filling" [2 copies]
52. "Alaska 1921 - Pack-train getting ready for trail at McCarthy" [2 copies]
53. "Alaska 1921 - Looking up stream - Chitistone River" [2 copies]
54. "Alaska 1921 - Hydraulic Outfit at work on Rex Creek Summer of 1921"
55. [Unidentified location - overlooking a river; has negative]

56. [Dam spillway]
57. "Alaska 1921 - Fording the Nizina River 12 miles from McCarthy"
58. *No image*
59. [Dog sled team and musher on winter trail]
60. [Pack-train on trail; has negative]
61. [View of mountainside - unidentified location; has negative]
62. [Placer operation]
63. *No image*
64. [Unidentified mountains; has negative]
65. [Placer mine]
66. "Alaska 1921 - Up-stream side of a trip-dam" [2 copies]
67. "A pack train in Alaska"
68. [Gold mine portal on high mountain precipice; has negative]
69. "Anchorage, Alaska - July 1, 1924. My first trip in an Aeroplane - Noel Wien (Pilot)"  
[Elsie in biplane on wheels]
70. "Pilot Wien & Yunkers, (owner of the Aeroplane) beside the bird of Anchorage - Anchorage, Alaska; July 1, 1924"
71. "Taken on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1924, Anchorage, Alaska. Left - to - Right - the-aviator, Peggy the little waitress who works with me, & on the end is the mechanic & owner of the aeroplane."
72. "Anchorage, Alaska. July - 24. The Seaplane just before she was wrecked. Mr. & Mrs. Jones (center) owner of Plane. Noel & Bill looking her over."
73. "Anchorage Alaska July 1-24. Noel, Peggy & Bill"
74. [Note which was with all the following small pictures: "These pictures when Roy & I were in Alaska."] "McCarthy Alaska. The interior of our Restaurant. 1921" [2 copies]
75. "Fourth Ave. Alaska [Anchorage]. Feb. 1922. Dog team"
76. [Hydraulic mining operation; has negative]

77. [Woman & Boy observe man operating hydraulic water canon]
78. [Photo of ground squirrel on logs in outside cabin]
79. [Woman with very long hair standing in rock-strewn field looking away from camera]
80. [Warmly dressed woman standing outside fence and line of houses]
81. [Photo of warmly dressed woman]
82. [Unidentified man standing on snow covered road - wears topcoat and walking cap]
83. "Elks Home #1351, Anchorage, Alaska - Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1922."
84. "Elks Home #1351, Anchorage, Alaska - Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1922." [Woman at entrance may be the same as in #'s 80 and 81]
85. "Moving from old to new Elks Home at Anchorage - Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1922."
86. [Trees on snowy hillside - unidentified location; has negative]
87. [Train station, track and men at station; mountains in background - unidentified location]
88. "Chitman, Alaska - April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920; Mr. L. H. Carvey & Mr. Hotchkiss, waiting for our train."
89. [Snow-covered hillside - unidentified location; has negative]
90. "Nizina, Alaska; August 1920; age 30" [Man holding a rifle on the bank of a creek; see photo #82]
91. "Nizina, Alaska, Aug. 1920, Brownie (horse) at the Cook House door"
92. "Nizina, Alaska - Aug. 1920 - Placer mining in 30-ft - cut"
93. "Our summer home up in Nizina, Alaska, during the summer of 1921."
94. [Placer mining operation in unidentified location]
95. [Clearing in wooded area - building in background]
96. [White cabin in unidentified]
97. [Penstock with frozen spray]
98. [Cabins in unidentified location]

99. [Unidentified young woman standing in front of Café]
100. [Man standing in snow-covered road; see also #'s 82 and 90]
101. [Unidentified young woman standing snow]
102. *No image*
103. [Interior view of house with large windows and many plants]
104. "May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1920 - Nizina, Alaska. This is moving day; the camp was on the side of this hill. The boys are watching a team at the left breaking new trail through broken ice. T'was all they could do to make it."
105. [Man and short haired dog outside cabin]
106. "Nizina, Alaska, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1920. This is our camp which is Nizina. Left to right - 3<sup>rd</sup> tent is ours & the 5<sup>th</sup> is the Cook House. Then are 3 tents at left now that were not put up when this was taken. About 5 ft. of snow on the ground." [2 copies]
107. "Nizina, Alaska - Dec. 20" [Woman standing in front of two draft horses in harness; has negative]
108. [3 people riding supply sled drawn by 6 horse in hand.]
109. "April 27, 1920; Stopping to water the horses. Over the mountains from McCarthy to Nizina, Alaska." [Supply sled drawn by 6 horse in hand.]
110. [Looking up at mine camp cabins in a row - **negative only**]
111. "Nizina, Alaska - middle of June, 1920; This is one of the giants making the cut for mining. Roy was on the side of hill when he took this picture. Note the pine line at foot of hill." [View of placer mining operation - 3 copies; has negative]
112. [View of placer mining camp; has negative]
113. "May 1<sup>st</sup> - Bellevue, Wash. 1925. See Puff sitting on the porch."
114. "Taken at Astoria Oregon Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1919, at 10 o'clock a.m. We landed for 1 hr. taken on the plank board of the ship we sailed on, "The Rose City," sailing from San Francisco, Calif. to Portland, Oregon. Roy took the picture, age 20 years old. Our berth was the 2<sup>nd</sup> one at my right. 1<sup>st</sup> class berth Mother was Great!"
115. "Puff & Buster out on the raft. The usual stunt they insist on having every time we go in swimming."

116. "Bellevue, Wash. Our prize picture of our dogs. June 20, 1925."
117. "Nizina, Alaska; May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1920. Our tent looks tipsy the way this picture was taken."
118. *No image*
119. *No image*
120. [On board ship]
121. "Nizina, Alaska - May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1920. "Same mountain; it is a 45 per cent grade. This is a glacier where I marked an x. This mountain is covered with grass and flowers now. When we climbed there was still snow on it. Age 20 years." [; has negative]
122. *No image*
123. *No image*
124. "Placer gold mining on Rex Creek, Nizina, Alaska. This shows how its done.....Perhaps Elmer might call more for this kind of a picture than you. If you both want one I'll send another. It's a good picture of it."
125. "Taken at Golden Gate Park Sep 13<sup>th</sup>, 1919. I was feeding the pheasant out of my hand. At the time this was taken the fog was just rolling in all over the entire park and surroundings, like a big cloud of white smoke. I only wished you could see the beau. colors of this bird. Age 20 years."
126. [Undated photo of young woman in automobile.]
127. "Snow scene in Alaska."
128. "Gelineau & Healy Hotel, La Touche, Alaska, Feb. 1922."
129. [Young woman hiking on steep mountain slope. Larger version of #117]
130. [Unidentified Alaska town]
131. [Unidentified Alaska town with long railroad bridge in foreground]
132. "McCarthy, Alaska. Kennecott Glacier in background"
133. "Sink in Kennecott Glacier"
134. "Looking up the Copper River, from bridge near Chitina."
135. [Dog sled team and musher enter an unidentified town]

136. "Childs Glacier"
137. "McCarthy Creek Canyon"
138. [Dog sled and musher enter an unidentified town]
139. "On the Kennecott Glacier"
140. [Musher running ahead of dog sled in an unidentified town]
141. "Face of Kennecott Glacier"
142. "Nizina Glacier, Morain, Rohn Glacier and Rhinoceros Peak"
143. "Pot-hole at McCarthy"
144. "Childs Glacier"
145. [Unidentified Alaska town (maybe McCarthy); business sign: Alaska House 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration]
146. "Baseball, at Kennecott"
147. "Kennecott, Alaska: Scene at the Mill and railway terminus. Areil trams lead back up the side of the mountain to the largest and richest copper deposits in the world."
148. "On the White River - Yukon Territory." [camp and horses in trees]
149. "McCarthy in mid-winter"
150. [Man with draft horse and 3 large dogs in front of a barn - unidentified location]
151. "This is the best of the two but the other shows more of the broken bridge. Its about 2 miles or a little more across the river. This was taken in the spring. See the water in other foreground"