

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Anderson, A.W.

A.W. Anderson Photograph Collection, 1942-1944

PCA 425-16

5 folders
149 Photographs

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ACQUISITION: Donated by Evelyn Swanson, daughter of Alfred W. Anderson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections April 1978, and accessioned September 20, 2001. Accessioned as 2001-076.

ACCESS: Unrestricted

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All loose photographs placed in mylar, and all items placed into pH-neutral folders.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alfred W. Anderson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was Chief Cook for the crew that helped build the Alcan Highway to Alaska during 1942-1944. He took the work to help support his wife and three children. He treasured the experience of working through the raw land to Alaska. [From donor notes].

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Loose photos, post cards and commercial albums of prints taken during construction of the Alcan Highway from 1942-1944. Photo prints of Anderson and others feeding wild bears that hung around the camp, photos around camp, some scenery and construction shots. 149 items. Some photos are described on verso. There are several commercial photos by Taylor and W.I.B.

SUBJECTS

Alcan Highway, Alaska, Canada, feeding bears, mess hall, work camp, dump site.

INVENTORY

Folder 1

Panel Print Albums (4)

1. Alfred W. Anderson, Cook, feeds a bear; five (5) similar or duplicate b/w prints.
2. Bear feeding; seven (7) b&w prints.
3. Bear feeding, fourteen (14) b&w prints. Last in book note: Taken at this camp of another tame bear, my cook helper to right. Aug. 15, 1943.
4. Bear feeding, fifteen (15) b&w prints.

#13 Emergency Air Base at the 225 nw of Fort St. John. This base is between High mountains; the highest 300 ft wide 1000 ft long. It was all heavy forest and it was cleared off in 4 months time; heavy caterpillars pushed the trees down and pushed into river on one side.

#14. Flight strip at 225 m. of Fort St. John at British Columbia.

#15. Camp at 225 m of Fort St. John.

Folder 2

1. [Work Camp for Alcan Highway]
2. [Bear, 2 workers, Alcan Highway]
3. [Bear, 4 workers, Alcan Highway]
4. [Waterfall]
5. [Unidentified river]
6. [Scrap heap at work camp, Alcan Highway]
7. [Bear in tall tree]
8. [Bear in wooden enclosure, on platform]
9. [Six (6) men bathing in unidentified river]
10. [Road from mountainside view]
11. [Work camp: 2 workers, truck and four (4) cabins]
12. [Bridge over unidentified river]
13. [unidentified stretch of dirt road]
14. [Seven (7) workers constructing bridge at unidentified river]
15. [Road grading equipment]
16. [Work camp, worker, 2 dogs with packs]

Folder 3

17. [Bear rummaging in work camp garbage]
18. [Riverside view of work camp]
19. [Work camp view showing Quonset huts and two-story buildings; road equipment]
20. [Wooded mountain view]
21. Post Card: The Alaska Highway: From Dawson Creek, B.C., the road runs some 1,500 miles north-west through Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and on to Fairbanks, Alaska. Coming into the field in March, 1942, and working from Dawson Creek and Whitehorse, the U. S. Engineers did a remarkable job of locating and building a rough but serviceable road over the entire distance by November. This cleared the way for moving in heavy equipment and supplies. Highway contractors' crews are now widening, straightening and, in places, rebuilding the original road. Later this fine gravel highway...will be hard surfaced.
22. [Bridge construction from river bank]
23. Post Card: The worst ice flow that covered the Alaska Highway, Kluane Lake, detour on right, original road under highest ice. 26 Public Roads Administration, FWA.
24. Post Card: Hudson's Bay Company.
25. Ear Lake, Yukon
26. [Four (4) workers, trucks and equipment; Ft. St. John]
27. [Mountainside view; unidentified area]
28. [Workers outside camp building]
29. Post Card: Ear Lake, Yukon
30. Post Card: Winter scene along the Alaska Highway41 Public Roads Administration. FWA
31. Post Card: Along the Alaska Highway through Canada's wilderness built by a welcome army of U. S. soldiers Permission Wartime Information Board
32. Post Card: Boundary between Alaska and Yukon. Flags of Freedom and Friendship.

33. Dad feeding a wild bear in camp
34. [Camp workers on either side of a wolf skin]
35. [Native Alaskan woman and child]
36. Same as #34

Folder 4

37. [Dog on snow]
38. [Camp workers (3) feeding bear by hand]
39. [View toward snow-covered mountains; unidentified area]
40. [Camp workers (3) offering food to a bear]
41. [Camp workers (5) outside cabin in snow; two (2) are cooks]
42. [Camp cooking staff; three (3) men, one (1) woman]
43. Five Finger Rapids – Yukon River
44. Same as #42
45. Small doe seen near camp
46. [Two (2) camp workers hand feeding bear]
47. [Unidentified section of Alcan Highway]
48. Fox
49. [Camp cooking staff]
50. [Riverside section of road]
51. Sickney River Bridge
52. [Float plane docked at riverside]
53. Highway to Alaska...W.I.B. photo [1 vehicle on road]
54. [Camp Kitchen, two (2) workers]
55. [Northern Lights]
56. [Northern Lights]
57. Edmonton, Alberta – Beginning Alaska Highway
58. Highway to Alaska...W.I.B. photo- [2 vehicles on road]
59. Liquor Store at Whitehorse [long line of customers outside]
60. Alcan Highway
61. Yukon Moose
62. Yukon River Boat
63. Miles Canyon – Yukon River
64. Highway to Alaska...W.I.B. photo [unidentified river]
65. Caribou swimming Yukon River
66. Alaskan Glacier
67. Lake Bennett
68. [Snow-covered road and sign reading Suicide Hill]

Folder 5

69. [18-wheel truck hauling steel girder]
70. Highway to Alaska...W.I.B. photo [shows camp layout]
71. Whitehorse Rapids
72. Whitehorse
73. W.I.B. photo, taken from the Alaska Highway

74. [Road grading equipment]
75. [Dog sled and musher on snow]
76. Highway to Alaska...W.I.B. photo [1 vehicle on dirt road]
77. [Dog sled and musher on dirt road]
78. [Unidentified landscape with snow-covered mountains in distance]
79. [Work camp in the snow]
80. [Bear in camp garbage dump]
81. [Line of pack horses]
82. [River scene, unidentified]
83. [Bridge across unidentified river]
84. [Snow-covered roadway]
85. [Lake with snow-covered mountains in distance]
86. [Unidentified landscape with mountains in distance, winter]
87. [Unidentified lake with snow-covered hillsides in background]
88. [Two steamboats *Casca* and *Keno*]
89. [Moose calves]
90. [River craft at dock, snow]