

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

**Alter, Amos J.**

**Territorial Department of Health surveys of village water and sewage systems, 1950s-1960s.**

**PCA 543**

28 Boxes

Processed by: Toni Walsh, 3/2011  
Anastasia Tarmann, 2011, 2014

B&w mounted slides, negatives,  
contact prints, photographs, and microfilm  
Documents, unbound albums  
Moving image film

**ACQUISITION:** Donated by Amos J. Alter's wife, Catherine L. Alter via her daughter, Caroline Alter, and son-in-law, Larry Hayden. Accession no.s 2011-13, 2014-25. Addition of Acc. #2015-016 was donated by Larry Hayden and added to the master file.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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

**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. Partially processed. Notes of places and some dates on negative sleeves. Loose negatives were placed in archival sleeves. Negatives stored separately. Film entitled, "Let's Make a Water Barrel" was digitized.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

*From a Juneau Empire Obituary for Amos J. "Joe" Alter, Sunday, October 9, 2000.*

Amos Joseph Alter, a longtime Juneau resident, civil servant and civic activist, died Oct. 26 at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle.

Amos ["Joe"] Alter was born Aug. 4, 1916, on Rosebud Farm in Jasper County, Indiana, to Hally and Lillie Alter. His childhood and youth were spent in Indiana and New Mexico. He graduated in 1938 from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He specialized in public health and environmental issues in his graduate studies, earning a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1948 and his professional degree in civil engineering from Purdue in 1949.

Alter married Catherine Lena Lehe on Feb. 22, 1940. They arrived in Juneau in 1944 and continued to live in the community, except for a short residence in Ketchikan and a seven-year period when Joe worked at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

He worked for more than 35 years in Alaska as a civil engineer focusing on problems of water supply, waste disposal, environmental conservation and pollution control in an Arctic environment. He worked for the US Public Health service, the Territory of Alaska, the State of Alaska and as a private consultant. His professional involvement included charter memberships and past presidencies in the Alaska Public Health Association, the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Nationally, he served on the National Academy of Science's Cold Regions Engineering Subcommittee from 1950 to 1965 and as a national director of the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1972 to 1975. He authored numerous articles and monographs for professional journals and conferences, and received awards in recognition of his contributions and service. He was especially pleased to have had a role in helping to virtually eliminate tuberculosis as a daily threat to the lives of the State's citizens.

Alter was an active member of the United Methodist Church. After arriving in Juneau, he was also actively involved as a leader in various interdenominational church groups at both the state and local level. Joe was an active member of the Juneau Downtown Rotary Club, serving as its president and the District Governor for District 503, which at the time included Alaska, Yukon Territory, Seattle and King County. He participated in the Pioneers of Alaska and the Alaska Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. He served on the Pioneer Homes Advisory Board for 14 years and the Alaska Commission on Aging for seven years. Locally, he helped form the group that was responsible for the construction and subsequent management of Fireweed Place, a residence for independently living senior citizens.

He is survived by his wife; sister, Betty Henry of Rensselaer, Indiana; sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Jean Ann Alter of Juneau, and Jerry and Alice Alter of Dayton, Ohio; daughters and

sons-in-law JoAnne and Larry Hayden of Anchorage, and Barbara and Tony Fuller of Cabool, Mo.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Addition, Acc. #2015-016:

Amos Joseph Alter's degrees & certificates have been added to the master file:

Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue 6/12/38

Master of Public Health degree from University of Michigan 6/12/48

Degree of Civil Engineering from Purdue 6/19/49

Certificate of Registration as Territorial Engineer 4/2/47

State of Alaska Certificate of Registration as Land Surveyor 2/5/73

State of Alaska Certificate of Registration as Civil Engineer 4/4/47

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Village water and sewage system assessment, including permafrost conditions, sanitation assistance training, and village structures and village life and people, 1940s-1960s. Aerial and close-up views of village layouts and surrounding landscapes, construction projects. Studies undertaken for the State of Alaska Health Department, Territorial Department of Health, United States Department of the Interior Office of Indian Affairs Field Service.

### SUBJECTS

State of Alaska Health Department, Territorial Department of Health, United States Department of the Interior Office of Indian Affairs Field Service, Alaskan villages, water sanitation, sewage treatment, aerial/landscape photos of estuaries/river/streams/any water source located around Alaskan villages, oil bailers, coal bailers, the Artic Health Research Center (AHRC)

### INVENTORY

#### **Box 1**

**Folder 1:** Aerial photographs of Alaskan villages: Kiana, Teller, Huslia, Elina, Gambell, Noorvik, Kiana, Cheforvak, Lower Kalskag, Akiak, Fort Yukon, Upper Kalskag, Barrow, Kwiguk, Candle, Eagle City, Fort Yukon, Hughes, Tanana, Kotzebue, and Mekorvuk.

**Folder 2:** Original notebook of photos of White Mountain and Wales, Alaska. Photos of village layouts/surrounding landscapes and village life.

**Folder 3:** Original notebook of photos of Shaktoolik, Shishmareff, and St. Michaels, Alaska. Arial views of village layouts/surrounding landscapes, construction projects, and village life.

**Folder 4:** Original notebook of photos of Chevak, Nighmute, Nunapitchuk, Alaska. [Arial views of village layouts/surrounding landscapes, construction projects, and village life.

**Folder 5:** (8X10's from Don's negatives.) Photos and negatives of villages and water barrel preparation.

**Folder 6:** Photographs of Chevak, H. Bay, Kwethluk and Tununak, Alaska village life. Original index of photos with descriptions.

**Folder 7:** Photos of Sanitation Aide training, graduation, and work. Location unknown.

## **Box 2**

**Folder 8:** Filmstrip-Let's Make a Water Barrel Prints. Prints and transparencies. Photos depict a step by step process of water barrel creation. Produced by Richard S. Holmgren and Lauris S. Parker.

**Folder 9:** Photos and script to the Alaska Sanitation Aide Training Program, titled: "Let's make a water barrel." Filmstrip, b&w 35MM.

**Folder 10:** Photo Course, Example 5. Photos of water sanitation systems, structures in Savoonga and Shaktoolik, Alaska, and dentistry on children.

**Folder 11:** Nome school. Photos of Sanitation Aide training program.

**Folder 12:** Original notebook of photos of Hooper Bay, Tanunak, Unalakleet. Arial views of village layouts/surrounding landscapes, construction projects, and village life.

**Folder 13:** Original notebook of photos of Kipnuk, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok. Arial views of village layouts/surrounding landscapes, construction projects, and village life.

**Folder 14:** Alaska North Slope slide series. Detailed list of a North Slope slide series with date, description, and photographer credit. **Prints of a series of negatives.**

**Folder 15:** From notes: Titles, Symbols, Signs, etc. of Allakaket, Nome, Noorvik, Solomon, Kiana, Tuututulika, Eqavi, Auette Island, Shaktolik, Noatak, Uulakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins, Nelson Island, Ambler, Shungnak. Portraits of various gentlemen. Anchorage Planning session, 1962. (Slides)

### **Box 3**

**Folder 16:** From notes: SE Misc #1 7/22-83/62 shots of Waterfall and Juneau, AK; SE Misc. #2 landscape shots; #2 J.G. Doore Nov/Dec 1962, shots of village and landscapes. (Slides)

**Folder 17:** Scientific Research Data and Reports from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Research and Academic Coordination. Aerial photos of random Alaskan water sources and landscapes.

### **Box 4**

**Folder 18:** Work photos, negatives, and slides. Showcase of photos, negatives, and slides with original storage envelopes. People and areas of Barrow, PAF Nushegak, Moser Bay, Wein Lagoon/Barrow, Nellie Juan, Orca, Libbyville, Eshamy, Nakeen, Frontier Bay/ Kilisnoo, and Skagway.

Joe's work photos + notes. Many Alaskan comments. Photographs, negatives, slides, and assorted documents.

**Folder 19:** Work photos and negatives. Photos and prints with original storage envelopes. People and areas of Alaska Packers "NN", Koggiung, Nenana, Alitak, Uganik, Kodiak, Ellamar, Naknek, Yakutat, Valdez, Cordova, Port Bailey. Contains a number of random duplicate and/or badly rendered photos.

**Folder 20:** Work photos and negatives (continued). Prints with original storage envelopes. Unidentified people, unknown locations. Photos of a water transportation truck in Dillingham. Photos of thawing bailers for sewage drains in Fairbanks, Alaska.

**Folder 21:** Photos and negatives of water Treatment Facilities. Photos and slides of the Water treatment center in Fairbanks and another unlabeled location (possibly same). Slides featuring a germ free food handler's campaign, 21 slides.

**Folder 22:** Work photos and negatives. Showcase of photos and prints highlighting] oil and coal burners Fairbanks, chemo hypo chlorinator, Skagway June 1941, Larsens Bay, Ugashik, Fairbanks thaw points, Church and State

Barrow, Dayville, [random photos with a note attached referring to Janet Johnson], a new home in Barrow, [and a few] pan shots of Barrow.

**Folder 23:** Photos, negatives, and descriptions. Photos and negatives of a well drill rig and numbered photos of people and housing with page of descriptions [some photos in series missing].

**Folder 24:** Nordic Health Notes and Miscellaneous Prints and Copies. Photos and negatives highlighting photos housed in an envelope labeled Nordic Health Notes. All photos with written descriptions on the back were sleeved, in the order they were found. Non-labeled photos, along with multiple reproductions and with designations are also in this folder.

**Folder 25:** Letter from U.S. Dept of Interior and Photos. Letter attached to photo--written to Amos "Joe" Alter from George A. Dale, Director of Education. A handwritten list title "Libraries." A series of miscellaneous photos is also included in the folder. One particular envelope of photos is labeled] "Rolls # 1, 2, &3."

#### **Box 5**

Water Pollution Control Survey, Fairbanks Sept 1961 #1. Water Pollution Control Survey, Fairbanks Sept 1961 #2. Roll #1 ANC [Anchorage] Water Pollution Survey-1961. Roll #2 ANC Water Pollution Survey-1961. Roll #3 ANC Water Pollution Survey-1961. Roll #4 Water Pollution Survey 1961. Water Barrel (B+W) Parker. Unalakleet #1. Togiak #1. Teller #1. Hydaburg #1. Gambell. Buckland. Arctic Village #1. C. Lisburn C. Thompson. Ambler. Kivalina #1. Kwethluk. Wales#2. Nectuk (?) #2. Craig #2. Ketchikan #2. Angoon #2. OTZ #2. (Slides in original containers)

#### **Box 6**

N. 1 Field Trip Jan 63. Candle. School Nome 1958 #1. Nome #2. MSCL #1. May 13, 1964 Field Trip #2. Point Hope #2. Hooper Bay #2. Point Hope #1. Shishmaref #1. Point Hope #3. Well Drilling #1. Klawak #1. Noatak #3. Koyuk. Chevak #1. Chevak #2. Tununak #1. (Slides).

#### **Box 7**

**Folder 26:** Northland Dairy pictures. Other varied pictures related to workshops.

**Folder 27:** Varied photos with multiple copies related to workshops, no designation.

**Folder 20:** Enlargement of Pictures Taken at Ward Cove - March 1957. Varied negatives.

**Folder 21:** Photographs related to water works.

**Folder 22:** Photographs - Silver Bay studies near Sitka - WPC - 1956.

**Folder 23:** WPC Ward Cove US Fish + Wildlife Survey.

**Folder 24:** Mixed photographs and manuscripts.

**Folder 25:** Ketchikan housing photographs.

**Folder 26:** Water works photographs.

**Folder 27:** Photographs related to refuse disposal and sewers.

**Folder 28:** Photographs - ADH Sanitation aides 1955 class - (Part One).

### **Box 8**

Teller #3. Animal Slaughter. School Bethel 1955 #1. Lab- Water Test (NRO). #3 - J. G. Doore Nov/Dec 62. School Univ of AI 1958 #1. Ft Yukon #2. Delta Area Msc/ #1. Shishmaref #2. Shengnak #1. NVK #2. Nome #1. Nome #3. May 13 Field trip ANC-KDK #1. Chevak #3. Kobuk #2. "Let's make a W. B.". Craig #1. Kotzebue #1. Wales #1. Aide Lecturing. (Slides)

### **Box 9**

School Nome 1958 #2. Scammar Bay. Huslia #2 Hughes. Htdeburg #2. Kotzebue #7. Napakiak #1. School Nome 1955 #2. Yakutat #1. Dillingham #1. NVK #1. Kalkag kanakauak. Kake #1. Metlakatla #1. North M. White Mt. Teller #2. Stebbins. Hooper Bay #1. Kake #2. Saxman #1. St. Michael Savoonga. Deering. Arctic Village #2, Ayakyuvik Pass #1. Shaktolik. (Slides)

### **Box 10**

**Folder 29:** Sanitation & Engineering Conference. Fairbanks. Jan. 6-10, 1958.

**Folder 30:** [Assorted photographs, negatives, and manuscript].

**Folder 31:** Harbor View Mental Health Facilities, Valdez, Alaska.

**Folder 32:** [Water supply related photographs related to different communities].

**Folder 33:** [Water supply related photographs and related manuscripts].

**Folder 34:** [Conference?].

**Folder 35:** [Assorted health related photographs].

**Folder 36:** [Assorted health related photographs].

**Box 11**

[Administrative records, conference papers].

**Box 12**

[Slides].

**Folder 37:** Huslia, Bethel, Golovin, Barrow, Sitka.

**Folder 38:** Ketchikan, Juneau, Pt. Hope, Fairbanks, Seward, Arctic Problems [there were no slides associated to the "Arctic Problems" entry], Arctic Construction.

**Folder 39:** N° 1 Field Trip Jan. '63.

**Folder 40:** Fairbanks, Inuvik, Staff, Selawik,

**Folder 41:** SASch#1 Nome, Akiachack, Scenic Aerials, Mekoryuk.

**Box 13**

**Folder 42:** Bethel – San. Aide Sch., Ktz [Kotzebue],

**Folder 43:** Ktz [Kotzebue], Noorvik.

**Folder 44:** [Conference and field photographs].

**Folder 45:** [Field photographs].

**Box 14**

[Slides]. U. S. Public Health College, Alaska, box 14 of 15, State of Alaska. Kotzebue #5. Noorvik #4. Tyonek. Unalakleet #2. Angoon #1. Selawik #1. Chevak #4. Tuntuntuliak #1. Aerial Scenic #1. Canada MscI #1. Ekok, Ekwok, Elim. School U. of A. 1956 - 2 #1. 1961 - #1 Planning Session. Kotzebue #4. NRO

mscl #1. 1962 - #2 Planning Session. Klawak #2. Kivalina #2. Beaver, Bettles. Permafrostology & Construction.

### **Box 15**

[Slides]. School Bethel 1955 #2. N° Field Trip Jan. '63. Bethel #3. Shungnak #2. Tanana #1. 1961 - #2 Planning Session. School U of A 1956 - 1 #1. SE Reg Misc #3. #1 - J. G. Doore - Nov/Dec 1962. School Fairbanks 1959 #1. Kwiguk #1. Arctic San Engrg Mounted Slides.

### **Box 16**

[Misc photographs and negatives]. Nome. Nome Water. Nome garbage. Nome - Water Supply. AF personnel and FL team. Wildlife. Shish. White Mtn. X Ray. Auk Creek. Salmef[?]. AHRC Houses. Alter. Frank Go. Johnny Mathur Drivers License. Travel Chart 2/62 Ann Lu. Fairbanks Map. Chris Erendrecht. Johnny Mathur Birthday. Jack Davis. Edna Foster Health Ed. Teller. Candle. Wales. Jackie + Tillie Bet chomo [?] Team. Polaris - '55. Mekoryouk 8/57. Kan. Selawik. Noorvik. Point Lay. Wainwright. Nulato. Golovin. Eek. Stebbins. KTZ. Solomon. Akiachak. Mtn Village. Kobuk River? Kiukluk?. Seward Peninsula, Port Safety. [Pioneer Water Delivery].

### **Box 17**

Nome. Water POL Control Rpt 1952. Air Views. Lens Beach. Ward Cove. National Guard, Point Barrow, 1959. Dan Wescott. Calvin Winey. Reynolds Young.

### **Box 18**

Alaska Society C Engineer 1957 Conference - Juneau. Sanitation, Engineering Conference Fairbanks, 1958. 1960 Conference Juneau. Xmas Party, 1957 [No photographs following sign]. Personnel. Palmer Hosp. Neg Drawings of Poisonous Plant. S. Franklin Houses (Early '30s & '40s). Water Pollution Control Silver Bay, 1956. ASCE Spring 1957 1140 → 1159 [referring to the numbers on the envelopes containing the photographs]. FBK Water 1051 - 1097.

### **Box 19**

Housing. Fairbanks Frost Closure 1958. University Sewage T. FBK milk. FBK Rats. FBK misc. FBK Sewer. FBK Houseblow. Water Treatment Plant Fairbanks. Belkofski. Unalaska. Lower Kalskag. Cold Bay. Kiska. Kwiq. Kwethluk. Chevak. Sitka C. B. Sewer. Evergreen Bowl. Chart of Polio Cases - 1950 through 1958. Medical Facilities. Health Ed. Kleweno. Sewage Oxidation Pond at Fort Yukon.

**Box 20**

Nenana. Attu. Aleutians. Atka. Shemya. Adak. Pt. Hieden. Palmer MVFCA.  
Amchitka. Nushbag. Nush.

**Box 21** Miscellaneous slides

Barrow. Noatak #1. Thule #4. '55 Nome School #1. N.E Cape. Kobuk #1. Tuluksak. Ft Yukon #1. Hooper bay documents: hand-drawn layout of village, including frame houses and older style houses the map maker calls "igloos."

**Box 22**

Slides of various Alaska villages. Encased in slide boxes.

**Box 23**

Loose slides.

**Box 24**

- Folder 1      Lloyd Jarman photographs (20 b&w)
- Folder 2      Sanitation Aide Basic Training Course, University of Alaska, 1956.  
Photographs with captions (originally in three-ring binder).
- Folder 3      Sanitation Aide Basic Training Course, University of Alaska, 1957, 1958.  
Photographs with captions (originally in three-ring binder).
- Folder 4      b&w photographs: Paul Windsor, Commissioner of Health and Welfare,  
1959-1968, portrait; meeting or conference photographs, Mt. McKinnley  
(N.J. Reid, Natl. Park Service), gold dredge, dredging Fairbanks district.  
Document: Dept. of Environmental Conservation Microform Reference  
Material (list for 1937-1960)
- Folder 5      b&w photographs of Soviet visit to University of Fairbanks
- Folder 6      b&w photographs of Soviet visit to University of Fairbanks
- Folder 7      b&w photographs of Soviet visit to University of Fairbanks
- Folder 8      b&w photographs of Soviet visit to University of Fairbanks [Folder 2 of 2.  
Originally in binder].

Folder 9 Two cassette tapes with matching typed descriptions of Yakutia and permafrost conference (match to slides, not located)

Folder 10 Negatives to be housed.

Box 25 Loose b&w photos and typed reports with photos

Anchorage, 1948 (prints)

Fish & Wildlife offices, Kodiak

Sanitation in Juneau, 1957-1961

Jan., 1953 staff portraits?

Petersburg

Staff portrait? In front of what is now the City Museum building

Kodiak from Calvin Winey

Food handlers program meetings

Misc. Public health photos: Baranof Lake outlet, 1962, Juneau operations, lab

Craig, 1959

Hydaburg, 1959

Bethel report with photos, 1947

Fairbanks, Juneau garbage. Juneau dairies

Staff portraits, & negative

Anch housing

Petersburg Dam construction. Eyak Lake, Cordova water report

Various areas and towns in Alaska, ca. 1957-59 (Approximately 200 b&w photos)

Adak village and people, 1961

Nenana, Dillingham, 1961

Trading Bay, 1961

Kwethluk, Chevak, Carmel, Fairbanks International Airport, 1961

Big Delta, Amchitka, 1961

Pribilof, 1961

Box 26 Miscellaneous formats

Black bear, building (color slides)

Barrow

Ketchikan Public Health building sketch

Box 27 Miscellaneous color and b&w slides, some loose, many unidentified, some b&w prints

Box #1: 1-13 Kaguyak, 15-23 Sheek Water, 25-36 Alitak

Box #2: Unalakleet, Carson bay, Afognak, Ouzinkie, (Slides and some contact prints).

Box #3: Ouzinkie

Anchorage water pollution survey, 1961

Brooks Range

Dups: Kiana, Selwik, New Stuyahok, Unalakleet, Gamble-Unalakleet, Yakutat...(plain brown cardboard boxes, paper wraps)

Zip lock bag: Unalakleet, Gamble, Deadman's Slough (near Fairbanks), Chevak 1955

Empty magazine for automatic slide changer for 2'x2' slides (Airequipt brand)

Nome Water and Sewage Closed (prints in envelope)

Box 28      Film cans with film