Alaskan Engineering Commission

PCA 131

180 photographs

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Historical Note

The Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC) was created by President Woodrow Wilson in the Alaska Railroad Act (38 Stat. 305), March 12, 1914, to supervise construction of Alaska’s railways. The AEC went under the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1915. When construction was complete and the railroad began operating in 1923, the AEC became the Alaska Railroad Commission, redesignated The Alaska Railroad.

Scope and Contents Note

This collection includes views of Anchorage, public and private buildings, construction activities, facilities and equipment of the Alaska Railroad, then identified as Alaska Engineering Commission Railway. Official photographers for the Commission include: P.S. Hunt, H. G. Kaiser, A. J. Johnson and S. Laurence. The collection also includes views by The Sydney Laurence Co. and E. A. Hegg.

Inventory


2  Fourth Ave. looking west.  Anchorage, Alaska. [Anchorage Cigar Store, Bakery, Union Cigar Store, Union Cafe and other storefronts in view.] (P.S. Hunt, G. 172)

3  "C" St. Hill and new foot bridge, Sept. 30, 1916. [Automobile coming down hill, men working on footbridge, tents and wood frame homes in view.] (P.S. Hunt, G. 143)

4  Fourth Street, Anchorage.  Nov. 26, 1915.  [Snow covered street showing Pilgers General Store in left foreground.] (Sidney Laurence)

5  City Square and Tennis Court from Fifth Avenue side, Anchorage, Alaska. (P.S. Hunt, G126)

6  Preparing for new 12 foot concrete sidewalks.  Anchorage, Alaska.  Sept. 1, 1917.  [Street scene showing Kincaid Cabinet Works, The Northern, Bell's Place Rooms, Union Bath House, Shoe Shop, Mrs. P. D. Corlew Dry Goods, Johnson's Tent Factory, etc.  I (P.S. Hunt, G749)

7  Fourth Stage in the new 12ft concrete walks.  Anchorage, Alaska.  [Street scene showing Mint Grill in left foreground and other storefronts.] (P.S. Hunt, G753)


Decoration Day, May 30, 1918. Anchorage, Alaska. Services on Fourth Avenue. [Crowd standing in empty lot between two commercial buildings, Eckmann's Furniture store in view.] (II.G. Kaiser, 875)


Labor Day Parade. Anchorage, Alaska Sept.4-6. [Horse drawn cart sponsored by Matanuska Farms and Chicaloon Coal [Chickaloon], decorated with flags, flowers and striped border.] (P.S. Hunt G4349)


Parade Held in Honor of "Recruits" about to depart for their training stations. Anchorage, Alaska June-3o,1918. [Men in uniform marching down street, Anchorage Daily Times, City Hall and other buildings in view.] (H.G. Kaiser H-76)


General Post Office, Anchorage, Alaska. [Street scene with other buildings, people and carriage in view.] (S. Laurence)


"Federal Jail" Anchorage, August. 10,1918. [United States Marshall written on door.] (H.G. Kaiser H80)

October.14,1918- Anchorage Federal Jail. [Two men, one in uniform, standing by doorway. Close up view of building.] (G914)

U.S. Marshall's Office and Jail. Anchorage, Alaska. [Close up building] (G169)

Federal Jail Building and Grounds. Anchorage, Alaska Oct.18, 1918. (G916)
24 Anchorage, Alaska. [Man standing in doorway of Chamber of Commerce building.] (P.S. Hunt G170)
26 Larson and Wendler Building. Anchorage, Alaska. 114an and woman standing in doorway of Grocery store.] (P.S. Hunt G530)
28 Alger Building. Anchorage, Alaska. [The Bon Marche Department Store with 4th of July sale signs in windows and Dr. Ross Dentist Offices above.] (P.S. Hunt G528)
29 Presbyterian Church. Anchorage, Alaska. [Man in automobile at side of building.] (P.S. Hunt G543)
30 Catholic Church. Anchorage, Alaska. (P.S. Hunt 6545)
31 Episcopal Church. Anchorage, Alaska. (P.S. Hunt G542)
32 Christian Science Church. Anchorage, Alaska. (P.S. Hunt G544)
33 Anchorage, Alaska. [The People's Church Congregational.] (P.S. Hunt G546)
34 Anchorage, Alaska. [Hotel Anchorage with Richter Baths behind.] (P.S. Hunt G537)
35 Anchorage, Alaska. [Men and women standing and sitting in front of the White House.] (P.S. Hunt G541)
36 Anchorage, Alaska. [Hotel Crist.] (P.S. Hunt G540)
37 Anchorage, Alaska. [The Crescent, Furnished Rooms, with man and two women near doorway and two pedestrians approaching on boardwalks (P.S. Hunt 6536)
38 Anchorage, Alaska. [Hotel Parsons.] (P.S. Hunt G538)
39 Anchorage, Alaska. [Hotel Morrison.] (P.S. Hunt G539)
40 Empress Theater. Anchorage, Alaska. [Interior view of stage area.] (P.S. Hunt G532)
41 Harmony Theatre. Anchorage, Alaska. [Dr. W.A. Rystrom, Dentist Offices above theatre building, Bank of Alaska to left, Recreation Bowling Alleys to right.] (P.S. Hunt G534)
Carroll and Co. Men's Outfitters and Sydney Laurence Co. Photographers.] (S. Laurence)

43 Anchorage, Alaska. [Empress Theatre Building.] (P.S. Hunt G531)

44 Dumping Gravel on Temporary Trestle, approach to new dock.] (H.G. Kaiser G1424)


48 A.E.C. Cafeteria, Mess hall and Dormitories 1,2,3, June 8, 1919. (H.G. Kaiser G1380.)


51 A.E.C. Store Anchorage, June 8, 1919. (H.G. Kaiser G1379)

52 A.E.C. Hospital Anchorage, Alaska. (P.S. Hunt G430)

53 A.E.C. Main Office Building looking east. May 16, 1919. (H.G. Kaiser G1334)

54 A.E.C. Cold Storage Plant, Anchorage Terminal Yards May 6, 1919. [Man in white apron standing at door talking to man with dog.] (H.G. Kaiser G1330)


56 A.E.C. Ry Cottages on Gov. Hill, Anchorage, Alaska. No.’s 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. (P.S. Hunt G155)


58 Anchorage Terminal Yards Fire Department May 8, 1919. [Two men seated in Ford fire engine with hoses and ladder attached3 (H.G. Kaiser G1329)


60 Third Stage, Filling In the Concrete. Anchorage New 12 ft. walks. [Men working, cement mixer, Dry Goods Furnishings Sign, Empress theatre in view.] (P.S. Hunt G.T51)

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A.E.C. Ry Power House. Anchorage Terminal. [Interior view showing man standing by machinery.] (P.S. Hunt G481)

Materials from Panama, A.F.C. Ry Terminal Yards, Anchorage, Alaska [Lumber, wheels and other items alongside tracks.]


A.E.C. Yards Offices and Commissary Depts. from "E" St. Steps New freight, Shed and Depot in foreground. (P.S. Hunt G141)


Excursion of Anchorage Baseball fans to Potter Creek. July 1, 1917. [Passengers seated or standing in open railroad cars.] (P.S. Hunt G588)


View of Coal dock site Anchorage, Alaska. June 27, 1918. (H.G. Kaiser H74)


Tons of salmon and halibut are caught and packed near Anchorage for A.E.C. Stores Department. July 30, 1918. [Workers sorting fish in outdoor bins.] (H.G. Kaiser H.78)

Quartz from the latest strike in the Willow Creek Dist. Anchorage. [Group of men standing around a pile of Quartz. inspecting samples.] (HG. Kaiser)

The "Rustlers and the "Hustlers" competing membership teams, Anchorage. R. R. Y. M. C. A. Nov. 25, 1916. [Men and women, displaying signs and posters, in front of building.] (P.S. Hunt G256)

U.S. Govt. Auctioning lots at Anchorage. First lot sold for 825.00 dollars. [Crowd standing around auctioneer. Montana Pool Room and other buildings in back ground.]

[Close up of chalk board message "Union men stay away from the sewer work. Special! Boys stay away from the Martin Mine at Willow Creek"] (P.S. Hunt G554)

Anchorage Agricultural and Industrial Fair. Sept. 3, 4 and 5, 1917. (P.S. Hunt, AEC G780.)

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80 Town of Wasilla looking up Knick [Knik] wagon road. [tents, horse team and wagon, ground snow covered.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G371 7)

81 Miners at mouth of tunnel, Evan Jones Mine. Off shift; Jonesville, Alaska. (Logemann.)

82 Laying steel into Camp 14, Moose Creek. Aug. 24, 1916. [crew laying track, log buildings and tents.] (AEC G41.)

83 [Gulkana River bridge and Roadhouse. Mile 128.] (Guy F. Cameron.)

84 Kennicott, Alaska. [Mill of Bonanza Mine.] (P.S. Hunt, G4283.)

85 Kennicott, Alaska. [mill site and several residential buildings.] (P.S. Hunt, G4287-8.)


87 [Firebox for first Copper River Steamer. Chitina. Firebox loaded on sled, ground snow covered.] (P.S. Hunt, G1167.)

88 Irrigating wheel at U.S. Telegraph Station, Copper Center, Alaska. [Two men standing beside paddle wheel situated at rivers edge.] (P.S. Hunt, G2443.)

89 The Main street in Chitina, Alaska. showing entrance to the tunnel, Copper River, back on the ridge. (P.S. Hunt, G4279.)

90 Near view of tunnel between Chitina and the Copper. (P.S. Hunt, G4280.)

91 Chitina, Alaska. looking up Wagon Road Valley. [body of water with town and valley beyond.] (P.S. Hunt, G4277.)

92 Chitina, Alaska. Sept. 25, 1910. [viewed from the water, train on the tracks, town beyond.] (E.A. Hegg, 444.)

93 Section of the old native village at Cordova, Alaska being torn down by the N.W. Ry. Co. May 31, 1908. (P.S. Hunt, G1843.)

94 A.E.C. corral equipment. [yard full of wagons.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1413.)
95 Healy River Coal Corp. Suntrana, Alaska. [mining operation at base of a mountain.] (Cann.)

96 [Cordova's Copper Day train; engine and train decorated with U.S. flags.]

97 Outfit Car. [railroad supply car 0 45 X, two men standing at doorway.] (AEC G1220.)


99 Hoisting gravel, Nenana front. back filling. July 3, 1919. (T AEC 6.)

100 ANNE W. landing passengers from S.S. MARIPOSA. Anchorage, Alaska. May 29, 1917. (P.S. Hunt, AEC G494.)

101 Str. OMINECA. Anchorage, Alaska. [stern wheeler streaming.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G514.)

102 [river boat.] (The Sydney Laurence Co., AEC X25.)

103 [COLUMBIA CONTRACT CO. no. 40 and other boats beached.] June 2, 1916. (The Sydney Laurence Co., AEC X16.)

104 Stern wheeler MATANUSKA. [boat at the river bank, wagons and teams on the bank.] (no. 17) Sept. 28. (The Sydney Laurence Co.)

105 Cutting hay on Kinsinger place. Oct. 3, 1918. (H.G. Kaiser, AEC 1948.)


107 The R.S. Heckey Ranch about 4 miles north of Matanuska Junction. Burned, cleared and planted since April 10, 1916. [several people, a tent and beginning construction on a log cabin.] (AEC G39)


111 10 complete grading cars weighing 1350 lbs. each total 6 3/4 tons. near camp 166. March 30, 1917. A.E.C. Ry. [driver, sled and four horse teams.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G418.)

112 Chickaloon looking south July 20, 1921. [mining operation, several buildings including dormitory.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1853.)
113  Sutton Coal Washer.  May 6, 1922.  West end.  (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1956.)

114  The Elleyson homestead, Susitna.  [man and woman standing in the yard beside small cottage.] June 8, 1916.  (S. Laurence, AEC X26.)

115  Chief Nikoli of the Talkeetna Indians.  [several people and dogs on top of the roof of a log cabin.] (S. Laurence.)

116  [Seward, Alaska, street scene, flags decorating street and buildings.]

117  Evan Jones Mine, Coal cleaning plant and tipple, Jonesville, Alaska.  [plant and railroad tracks.] (Logemann.)

118  Knik, Alaska.  [street scene showing Knik Pool Room and other buildings.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G4155.)

119  Mr. McCormick meets Delegate to Congress Sulzer, Oct. 11, 1918.  Lucilla Lake Mile 160 Gov’t Railroad.  [six men standing in a field.] H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1014.)

120  [child holding an Anchorage Times newspaper.]

121  Main Street in Matanuska Junction, Alaska.  [town buildings viewed from the tracks, Fifty-Fifty Restaurant/Cigar Store, Hotel and other buildings.] AEC G33.)

122  E.L. Saindon’s Ranch.  one year old, 3 ½ N. of Matanuska Junction prior to erection of new house.  [man and woman standing in front of log cabin, horse hitched to a plow.] (AEC G37.)

123  The Second Special from Matanuska for the First Annual Fair.  [train at a station, crowd on the platform.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G757.)

124  Oct. 5, 1918.  Matanuska Valley homestead.  [boy and two men holding root vegetables, farm equipment in background.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G955.)

125  G.H. Saindon’s Ranch barn, Matanuska Branch A.E.C. Ry.  [log building with open shelter for hay storage.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G735.)

126  G.H. Saindon’s Ranch barn, Matanuska Branch A.E.C. Ry.  [view of hay storage end of barn, man and farm equipment in the building and yard.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G734.)

127  Matanuska Landing, June 4, 1916.  [tent buildings along the river bank.] (S. Laurence, AEC X17.)

128  Mr. A.A. Cobb’s Cabin and another portion of his garden.  Matanuska Junction.  [garden on a hillside.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G36.)

129  The village at Matanuska.  Sept. 28.  [tents in a row.] (S. Laurence, 21.)
130 Raising hogs in the Matanuska Valley. Oct. 9, 1918. [man in a field with hogs and a dog.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G988.)

131 G.H. Saindon's Ranch, 4 miles above Matanuska, A.E.C. Ry. [men and equipment in a field, buildings in the distance.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G731.)


136 Excursion crowd at Nenana, July 30, 1916. [Johnson, 20.)

137 Mess House, bachelors' quarters and general offices, June 29, 1917. Nenana, Alaska. [men waiting in line at the door to the Mess House.] (A.J. Johnson, AEC 56.)

138 Dredging Bering Sea in Winter, Nome, Alaska. (H.G. Kaiser, 31.)

139 Undershot water wheel, Peters Creek Shingle Mill. [man standing beside wheel.] (AEC G21.)

140 Ladies Red Cross Auxiliary. May 25, 1918. At the Red Cross Benefit Base Ball Game. Masons vs Elks. [women and children in uniform lined up outside a building.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G872.)

141 Looking north from Seward Dock showing old and new approaches. Jan. 28, 1917. [ground snow covered.]

142 North Third Avenue, Seward, Alaska. July 30, 1906. [row of houses.] (Gordon.)

143 Seward Division, Gov't Railroad. Oct. 23, 1918. [engine and caboose on the track, several men standing.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G]072.)

144 Seward Division, Gov't Railroad. Oct. 20, 1918. [farm buildings to the side of the track.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1112.)


146 Alaska Central Railway Company's Office Building., Seward, Alaska (P.S. Hunt, AEC G1264.)
Alaska Northern Railway Company's Warehouses, Seward, Alaska (P.S. Hunt, AEC G4247.)

Main Street. Seward, Alaska. [street scene, unpaved street with flag pole in the center.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G4246.)

Ship Creek, Alaska. [several people in front of a two story building, other buildings in the background.] (P.S. Hunt, G4167.)

Ship Creek, Alaska. [three men in front of a log cabin, cabin has canvas on roof and gable, smaller log cabin to the right.] (P.S. Hunt, G4169.)

River Steam Boat OMINECA at Croto Landing, Susitna River. [steam boat and barge near the river bank.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G83.)

U.S. River Steam Boat, OMINECA at Croto Landing, Susitna River. [rear view of stern wheeler and barge near river bank.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G8 4.)

A.E.C. Dock, Office Buildings and Jail. Talketna, Alaska. [log and canvas buildings at the river's edge.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G104.)

Wolff and Berg's Sawmill, Capacity 6,000 ft., half mile above Talketna. [steam sawmill in an open shed.] (AEC G107.)


The town of Talketna, Alaska. in background. [tent community, group of men in foreground.] (P.S. Hunt, AEC G102.)


[town of Nenana from north bank of Tanana River. Mile 412, Alaska Railroad.] (plate G-2000.)

March 4, 1919. Mile 227 Gov't Railroad. End of Steel. Email/ baggage car and box car being unloaded onto sleds, ground snow covered.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1157.)

Arrival of the First Two Modern Coaches for A.E.C. Sept. 23, 1916. [coaches being assembled.] (AEC G115.)

Train of Outfit Cars. May 17, 1919. (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1335.)

McKinley St., Valdez, Alaska by Lamplight in Winter, 1910. (P.S. Hunt, G2568.)

Mr. Wm. C. Edes and Mr. Thos. Riggs leaving Valdez for the Summit. [car load of people in front of the Buffet, crowd on the sidewalk.] (P.S. Hunt, G4302.)
Valdez, Alaska. 1909. [view along the wharf toward town.] (P.S. Hunt, G2339-40.)

[Valdez, Alaska. 1909. view of lumber mill to the right of the wharf, view from water toward town.] (P.S. Hunt, G2339-40.)

[McNally and Maitland Lumber-Coal-Gasoline Building in center, wharf beyond.] (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G1126.)

U.S. Mail Teams at Camp 83. A.E.C. R.W. [two teams and sleds on the trail just past a tent community.] (H.G. Kaiser, H1 1/2 AEC.)


First Street, Cordova, Alaska. [street scene, O.K. Lodging House, the Northern and other businesses, crowds of people on the boardwalk.] (E.A. Hegg, 383.)

[man with a dog team hitched to a wagon, railroad train and log buildings behind.]

Cordova, Alaska. Oct. 12. 1908. [high distant view, town and surrounding area, including railroad trestle and sternwheel steam boat.] (E.A. Hegg, 206.)

Copper River Railway, Mile 8. United Wireless Company station. [man riding the rails in a self propelled car.] (E.A. Hegg, 226.)

Steam Shovel at Camp 6, Mile 22, (E.A. Hegg, 140.)


Copper River Railway Construction Work Abercrombie Canyon, Sept. 5, 1908. Mile 52. [men working beside the river.] (E.A. Hegg, 185.)

Rock men at Abercrombie Canyon, Copper River Railway, Sept. 29, 1908. Mile 54. [men working on the road bed.] (E.A. Hegg, 202.)

Wrecking Crane, Copper River Railway. [men in front of the crane, in the rail yard.] (E.A. Hegg, 256.)

Copper River Railway, Track Driver. [machinery on a flat car.] (E.A. Hegg, 240.)

Red Cross Benefit Ball Game (May 25th) Masons vs. Elks [group portrait of the Mason's team with people in the stands behind them.] 1918. (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G870.)

Red Cross Benefit Ball Game (May 25th) Masons vs. Elks [group portrait of the Elks team with people in the stands behind them.] 1918. (H.G. Kaiser, AEC G871.)