Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Frame, John William "Bill," Collector

Bill Frame Photograph Collection, ca. 1912-1940

PCA 228

300 photographs


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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John William Frame, “Bill,” was an equipment operator for the Alaska Road Commission on the Valdez Fairbanks Trail, which later became the Richardson Highway. He was a driver for the Richardson Highway Transportation Company and may have driven for other companies. He appears frequently in the photographs near a vehicle.

His father, John Whitfield Frame, was a lawyer practicing in Washington State when gold was discovered in the Klondike. He traveled over the Chilkoot Trail and on to Dawson in 1898 with one son, Grover. In 1899, his wife, Nettie Susan joined him with the remaining sons including Bill, Park and Ira.

The senior Frame became a newspaper publisher in Alaska, publishing numerous editions including Alaska Weekly Transcript, The Alaskan (Cordova), Miner (Cordova), The Commoner (Valdez), The Weekly Alaskan (Anchorage), The Forty-Ninth Star (Valdez, Anchorage), Daily Herald (Cordova), The Alaska Examiner (Ketchikan) and The Truth (Cordova). He died in Ketchikan in 1939. His son, Bill, died in 1972 at Hood River, Oregon.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The collection contains views of tourists and touring cars from the early 20th century, hotels and roadhouses along the Fairbanks-Valdez Trail. Locations include Paxson, Gulkana, Copper Creek, Salchaket, Sourdough, Kenny Lake, McCarty, Meiers, Munson, Rapids and Youst. Also included are a few images of the Black Wolf Squadron. Most individuals and community businesses are identified.

INVENTORY

1. Clint Griffith & Johnny Cloxin. Anchorage 1917. [Two men are leaning on a City Auto Service Car].

2. Clint Griffith & George Arnent. 1917. Geo. McCormack of Dawson fame was Arnent’s uncle. [Two City Auto Service cars; Griffith at driver’s seat, Arnent leaning on the other car].

3. Left to right, George Arnent, Clint Griffith, Johnny Claxin. [A business street; the three men are near the City Auto Service sign].


7. Bill Frame near Chitina 1917. [Frame in the car with one passenger].
8. Corbett with air sled. 1916 at Chitina.

9. Bill Frame with big load of mail pulling out of Chitina. 1919. John Brower, contractor, third from left (?). [Four people in front of post office].

10-11. 1700 lbs. on Model T. Chitina 1919. Brower Stage Line. (similar views)


13. Chitina garage of Gibson Stage & Louis Bergonzin Restaurant. Bill Frame back. 1917 [3 Model T's. Frame has back to camera].

14. S.C. Breedman at Chitina. 1916. [Breedman standing beside new touring car. A bear cub with a chain around his neck is in the car]. (Torn photo)


17. Chitina, Alaska about 1930. [View from mountain top].

18. Bill Frame fixing motorcycle at Chitina 1916 March 1st-3rd. Man made successful trip over trail 3 days. [Bill Frame with 3 unidentified men (left)].

19. Chitina, Alaska. The second from the last train at Chitina Depot.

20. Horse stage and air sled. Chitina. 1917 [drifted snow].


23. Chitina, Alaska. The end of the trail. The second from the last train. C.R. N.W. Ry. [Copper River & Northwestern Railway]

24. [2 cars & 3 unidentified men in front of Hotel Chitina.]


27. Escaleda Sub-Chief, Chitina, Alaska. 1915 [man on wooden sidewalk].

28. Leaving Chitina for-Fairbanks. 1916. [2 open touring cars loaded with passengers].

30. [Bill Frame hosing down a car completely covered with mud. Chitina 1916.]

31. On the lakes out of Chitina - 1916 [Bill Frame in one of the two cars in photo].

32. On Chitina Lakes 1916 [Frame in one of the two cars in photo].

33. On the lake 4 mile from Chitina Bill Frame on Lake spring 1916 [standing by two cars].

34-35. Circle Road. 1930 [car, right].

36. Looking toward Circle City from Summit. 1930. [car, left]

37. Cordova Alaska about 1920 [main street].

38. Cordova 1917 [parade on the main street].

39. Cordova 1916 [two taxi cabs on street].


41. Cordova 1917 [2 taxis on main street].

42. Leaving Fairbanks, Oct. 1915. With the R.R. No. End Survey crew. (Missing right corner.)

43. Tom Gibson center. Owner of Gibson Stage Line at Fairbanks about 1920.

44. Drive leaving Fairbanks Nat. Cristeno With Hand on Fender about 1920 [Main street; three cars loaded].

45. STAGES LEAVING FAIRBANKS ALASKA [four cars with drivers].

46. STAGES LEAVING FAIRBANKS [four cars, many people near cars], Manger Photo.

47. Cushman St. Fairbanks, Alaska. [Fairbanks about 1920]. Guy F. Cameron Photo.

48. George Edge Carole (?) 1916 leaving Fairbanks [open car with passengers].

49. Bill Frame at wheel Fairbanks Alaska 1930 (also) Mickey McHanna [bus sign reads: Richardson Highway Transportation Company].

50. Street Scene Fairbanks 1930 [cars along street].

51. Barns and pig at Gulkana Roadhouse 1919.
52. Gulkana, Alaska Built for Mrs. Griffen by Art Lafferty [photo of roadhouse on Christmas card].

53. Belview Hotel and Helen Bell Ocean View Hotel... about 1925 Hyder, Alaska [view from above],

54. Hyder, Alaska Bill Frame 1925. Locomobile 7 psgr [Frame beside vehicle].

55. Ketchikan, Alaska 1925 [three cars with Clint Griffith, center and Phil Baum, right].

56. Kodiak during war 194- [street scene; soldiers, center].

57. Road to town of Kodiak 1940 [taken from Frames house].

58. Ferry at McCarty, Alaska crossing Tanana River 1930.

59. SKAGWAY [train tracks down Broadway Street].

60. Stretrela, Alaska on Copper River R.R. a few (15?) miles toward Kennecott from Chitina [a large building to left of tracks].

61. Lower Tonsina 1919 [wooden bridge].

62. Meet me at the Phoenix, Valdez, Alaska. [crowd of people in front of Hotel Phoenix].

63. Valdez Dock 1936 [people on dock; town beyond],

64. Sourdough and Gulkana July 1919 [Alaska Road Commission truck 23 stuck in mud; two men using poles to get it out; trail between Sourdough and Gulkana].

65. Ray Hoyt and an ARC-truck near Chitina 1919 [Hoyt on hood of truck].

66. A.R.C. Truck at Kenny Lake June 1919 [four trucks and drivers].

67. Road Com. Truck Drivers L. to R. Dan Morris, ___?___ Dan McCall, Hector McLaine, Sargent ___?___, Bill [Frame].

68. Road Com. trucks of Jim Davis Forman on the Nebesna Road [convoy of eight trucks].

69. [Two trucks on road; snow in ditches].

70. Bill Frame ARC Cat on Nebesna Road 1935 [man beside vehicle],

71. Alaska Road Com. on ... Home Hill about Mile 160-out of Valdez 1915 [horse-drawn wagon pulling car].

73. Alaska Road Com. 1933 about [road equipment; one driver]. (faded image).

74. A.R.C. Crew having lunch on our Home Hill ... 1916 [men seated, left, two vehicles, center]. (some fading in photo)

75. ... at Tazaline Bridge July 1919 [four trucks, foreground; bridge, left].

76. Alaska Road Commission Truck June 1919.... [four trucks on road].

77. A.R.C. truck June 1919 [three trucks on road].

78. A.R.C. truck out of Chitina about 4 miles About 1920 ,

79. A.R.C. truck Near Chitina May 1919 [man near truck dumping rock and dirt on road].

80. A.R.C. tractor July 1919 [man on tractor near small building; A.R.C.'s first road machinery].

81. Graveling the road near Chitina May 1919 [three dump trucks; Jack Graham near truck at left].

82. Alaska Road Com about 1919 [two tractors on roadbed]. (tear, upper right).

83. A.R.C. Truck June 1919 [distant view of two trucks on road].

84. _______ Stewart at Tolsonia 1930 with Nabesna outfit [man near tractor; freight loaded sleds behind tractor],

85. A.R.C. Near Sourdough July 1919 [two trucks; two men, left]. (tear in photo, upper left)

86. [Man beside car; both under sign: Abercrombie Trail... ARC].

87. Road Com. Coming in after a Summer Road Building [convoy of trucks with Gus Johnson, center and Paul White, right].

88. Salt Jacket Ferry at Munson 1915 [Helen Coffee with unidentified man to left of car; Munson 40 miles south of Fairbanks].

89. Bill Frame and Salesman from Seattle Hardware Co on Ferry at McCarty (Big Delta) 1924 [two men standing in front of car].

90. Ferry at Salchet (?) 1915 [group of people on ferry beyond skiff, foreground].

91. Double Enders on Valdez Summit 19 [empty horse-drawn sleds; glacier, beyond]. (Guy F. Cameron Photo no. J1513.)

92-93. Pack Horses on Sushanna [Glacier], (Similar views.)
94. The Rapids, near the Delta, Alaska about 1915 [seven horse-drawn loaded sleds; one man, left; hillside, beyond].

95. Car Drown in Theiland Creek (Little Delta) 1917 [two men near buried car]. (Faded image.)

96. The Hard Way 1915 [three pack horses carrying logs; two men; mountain pass].

97. Anchorage Trail Nov. 1916 [snow on logs at edge of trail].

98. Dog Trail Between Seward and Anchorage around Turnagain Arm, 1916 [snowy trail; used before railroad was built].

99. Post at Fairbanks on Round World Flight with Getty, Nov, 1930 (?) [crowd around plane]. (Faded images.)

100. Post Landing at Fairbanks. First Round World [flight; crowd around Plane]. (Faded image.)

101. Frame and Passenger 1915. Sun Creek on Valdez Trail...[man carrying woman across creek].

102. Bill Frame Between Fairbanks and Circle [man beside Eagle Summit sign]. (Fading image.)

103. [Three unidentified women near water].

104-105. Copper River Natives 1932 [group of five children beside dirt path]. (Identical views.)


107. Donnelly Dome Oct 1915 [two cars, six men; members of survey party...on way south].

108. One of the Lakes out of Chitina 1930's [calm water reflecting surrounding hills and trees].

109. Another Lake out of Chitina 1930 (?) [close-up view of hills reflecting on lake].

110. Mt McKinley taken by W.N. Beade N.Y. 1923 [snow covered ground with McKinley beyond].

111. Summit Lake Looking North 1923 [road, right; lake, left; mountains, beyond].

112. Looking No[rth] Toward Paxson about 1922 [Richardson Highway with lake, left]. 3 ½” x 12” photo.
113. Looking No[rrth] Summit Lake ... about 1922 [Richardson Highway, right; lake, left].  3 ½” x 12” photo.

114. Looking No[rrth] around Summit Lake 1921 [road left; lake, right].

115. Summit Lake 1926 [lake, center; mountains beyond].

116. Looking No[rrth] around Summit Lake 1921 [lake to left of road].

117. 3rd Lake Out of Chitina Looking No[rrth] 1921 [hills and trees reflected in lake].

118. Paxson Lake 1916 [lake left, grass, foreground; hills surrounding lake].

119. Middle Lake Out of Chitina about 1920 [mountains reflected in lake].  Faded, left center.

120. Shaw Creek Hill 1920 [narrow road left of lake].

121. Good Piece of road near Dry Creek July 1920.

122. Ducks on Kenney [sic] Lake Alaska Aug 1919 [skiff, right].

123. Chitina Fairbanks Trail Between Millers and Yoste Alaska Aug 1919 [car on narrow trail along edge of mountain].

124. Cathedrill Mountain on the Summits 1919 (?) [mountains in background

125. Summit Lake 1919 [hills beyond road].

126. [Portion of Fairbanks-Valdez Trail]. 1919?

127. Chitina Fairbanks Trail Between Millers and Rapids Alaska Aug 1919

128. Near Dry Creek 1919.

129. Chitina Fairbanks Trail Around Summit Lake Alaska.  1919?

130. [Fairbanks-Valdez trail near Miller's Roadhouse]. 1919?

131. 3 Lake [?] Out of Chitina 1918 [hills reflecting in lake].

132. Rainbow Mt 1917 [mountain beyond body of water].

133. Between Copper Center and Willow Cr. 1917 [rutted trail; men and car in distance].

134. Looking South Down Paxson Lake 1917.

136. Tanana River Looking No[rth] from Shaw Creek Hill 1916.

137. Rainbow Mt. Valdez Trail 1916.

138. Looking No. at the outlet of Summit Lake 1916

139. Looking North Down Thealin (?) Creek (or Little Delta) 1916 [road to right of creek].

140. Valdez Trail to Thomson Pass [horse-pulled sleds, with drivers, on snowing pass].

141. Valdez Trail 1916 near Summit trail center, with bushes on either side]

142. Valdez Trail 1915. Head of Big Delta on (Theiland (?) Creek)

143. About 40 miles So. of Fairbanks 1915. [Car on snowy trail].

144. Looking North from Mile 167 July 1920 [low bushes on either side of trail].

145. Looking So[uth] 3 Lake... 1920 [mountains reflected in lake].

146. [Picture postcard mailed to Billie (Frame?) from Marie; sailor in hammock with A SAILOR'S PRAYER printed below].

147. Coast Guard Cutter Snohomish and fleet of, [ship docked; people on dock].


149. Copper Center Store House & Dog House... 1917 [exterior view of 6 log buildings].

150. “Unvexed by frills Or social ills, his mirth is free and bubblesome.” [Indian man and boy packing over trail].

151. An Alaska Native of Tender Years Near Copper Center About 1918 [full length view of young boy].

152. Copper Center about 1917 [people near 2 open touring cars outside Hotel Holman].

153. Copper Center 1917 [exterior of Hotel Holman].

154. First Copper Center R.H. ... 1917 [car and 3 men in front of Hotel Holman].

155. Blix's Road House Copper Center, Alaska [passengers in Valdez-Fairbanks Stage Line car; roadhouse, beyond; sign on-roadhouse reads Hotel Holman].

156. Frame's Auto Passenger Stage Line Blix’s Roadhouse Copper Center Alaska
157. U.S. Mail Gulkana 1917 [Bill Frame standing in one of 2 cars; outside log buildings].

158. First Gulkana [roadhouse?] 1916 [people in front of roadhouse run by Mr. and Mrs. Buck (?) Hoyt].

159. Gulkana 1915 [five men; 2 cars beside roadhouse; Tom Gibson, left].

160. First Gulkana [Roadhouse?] about 1917 [Blurred image.]

161. Mrs. Flannigan who runs Hannly Roadhouse being hit at by Bill Frame 1915 [car stuck in mud; Mrs. Flannigan, center; 3 other men].

162. Claud Stewart about 1916 Kenny Lake Road House.

163. Kenny Lake Roadhouse, 27 mile out of Chitina [Fading image.]

164. Lower Tonsina ... 1921 [exterior view of roadhouse].

165. McCarty Road House ... about 1921 [exterior view].


167. Meiers Road House July 1921 [Bill Frame, right; C.J. Mires next to Frame].

168. Mile 222. North of Miller Road House [bridge Spanning stream].


171. Overland Road House at Mile 50 out of Fairbanks 1915 [two cars, 3 people near roadhouse].

172. [Exterior view of the first Paxson Roadhouse]. ca. 1916

173. First Paxon [Paxson] Road House... Aug. 1919 [exterior view].

174. Paxton R H [Paxson Roadhouse] 1915 [horse-drawn sled and convoy of cars; Bill Frame, last on right].

175. Gibson Stages at Paxson R H 1920 Ray Hoyt and Bill Frame [beside cars].

176. Bill Frame Paxson Lodge 1929 [Frame beside touring car],

177. Rapids Roadhouse [exterior view]. 1919

178. Frances Auto Stage with A. E. C. Oct 1915 at Rapids [roadhouse; Bill Frame, center, standing. Photo is torn.]
180. Samuelson Road House at Richardson 1915 [Valdez-Fairbanks Stage Line and roadhouse].
181. Bill Frame at Simpson Road House 1917 [Frame near well].
184. Bill Frame in front of Sourdough Roadhouse 1924 [standing beside car].
185. Sourdough Roadhouse 1915 [three men behind flock of chickens].
186. Upper Tonsina on Valdez Trail about Mile 82 [exterior view, roadhouse Aug 29, 1912.
187. Willow Creek 39 Miles Chitina ... 1917 [exterior view of log buildings and tent].
188. Youst Roadhouse Mi 208 out of Valdez [group of people near two open touring cars].
189. Round (?) Flyer... Fairbanks about 1922 [biplane above trees].
190. Ethel No.[rth] Side Tazalina Hill Richardson Hiway [man and woman in open car].
191. Gordon and Bill Frame top of Tazalina Hill 1915 [two men near two cars].
192. Bill Frame Gasing up on Tazalina Hill 1915 [Frame with gas cans].
193-197. [Keystone Canyon showing stage, passing through]. 1917
198. Snow drift Valdez Summit 1916 July [man in car; high snow banks].
199. Hogan Hill Station 1919 [three cars covered with snow].
200. Between Hogan Hill and Sourdough 1919 [two men, one car, heavy snows].
201-202. [Bill Fitzgerald with car on snowy road between Kennecott and McCarthy]. 1938
203-204. Nebesna Mine Outfit on the way.1932 [loaded wagons and small shacks on runners].
205. Part of load of Nebesna Mine Co. on way in 1930 [three pieces of mining equipment].
206. [Frame hauling poles to Nebesna by dog team]. 1937
207. Nebesna stockholders 1939 [13 adults, one child in front of stores].
208. [Exterior view of Paxson Roadhouse].
209. [Two cars on Richardson Highway seven miles north of Meiers].
211. George Markham (?) 1917 [in car on Donnley Dome].
212-215. [Near Rapids on Valdez Trail]. 1917
216. [Car on Valdez Trail near Miller's Roadhouse]. 1915
217. [Man standing beneath U.S. Marshall sign].
218. U.S. Military Telegraph Office at McCullum 1922 [exterior view].
219. Grover party (Forestry Service) on way out 1915 [four men near car].
220-224. [Dixie Fowler and Bill Frame driving stages on the Valdez Trail, 1915].
225-226. [Car on log bridge; four people nearby]. 1915.
227. [Car in front of Gulkana Roadhouse].
228. [People near car parked beside Samuelson's Roadhouse and store].
229. 1915 at Dry Creek [five people near car on trail].
230. First trip 1915-June [six people in and near Valdez-Fairbanks Stage Line touring car].
231. Axel Walston (?) and... Frame near Paxson 1916 [2 men in car; winter scene].
232. Gibson Auto Stage Line Near Kenney Lake, Aug. 1919 [two cars; one man, center].
233. Bill Frame and Dixie Fowler...at Copper Center [two men and cars].
234. [Two cars with passengers on Valdez Trail]. 1915
235. Valdez Trail 1915 [car and four men].
236. [Vehicle with two men; stuck near Fairbanks]. 1915 [Jeffrey’s quad 4 wheel drive stage line run by the Northern Commercial Company in Fairbanks. Information provided by patron, Sept. 2013]
237. Harry Stacer 1915. Jeffery’s quad 4 WD truck. “The N.C. was going to haul mail, freight & passengers on End of the Road with these but things did not pan out”. [Four wheel drive truck owned by Wells Fargo; 3 men; winter scene]. [Jeffrey’s quad 4 wheel drive stage line run by the Northern Commercial Company in Fairbanks. Information provided by patron, Sept. 2013]
238. [Eight men beside 2 open touring cars; snow on road].
239. Bill Frame [two cars on road]. 1919
240. [Bill Frame, right, beside car; second man, left]. 1924
242. [Dodge driven by Scotty Lyons and Bill Frame on Valdez Trail]. 1915
243. [Man with dog in car; woman left, with camera]. 1916
244. Ray Hoyt, North of Miers [Meiers], Aug. 1919 [man beside car of Gibson Auto Line].
245. Paxson Lake 1916 [car in mud; four people].
246. Stuck in mud 1923 [two men near car].
247-248. Between Copper Center and Willow Creek about 1917 [men pushing car, muddy road].
249. Near Fairbanks 1916 [three cars and passengers on muddy road].
250-253. Rear End Trouble near Paitum (?) 1916 [back wheels removed; winter scene].
256. [Two men beside car stuck in snow; near Paxson; spring 1916].
257. Jarvis Creek 1931 [car being pulled through water].
258. Roadside repair 1916 [two men repairing car].
259-262. Valdez Trail .1915 [getting car of Valdez-Fairbanks Stage Line out of stream bed].
263. Flat tire... McCullan Telegraph Station 1923.
264. [Two men fixing rear end of car].
265. [Fixing a tire, south of Fairbanks]. 1916
266-268. Forest Fires and Wind Falls; Richardson Hwy 1916 [men digging out cars].
269. [Men digging car out of snow]. 1916
270. Mud slide 1917 [men digging out car].
271. Near Sourdough Sept. 1916. [Digging car out of mud].
272-274. Repairs on the road 1916 [men working on car].

275-280. [Horses pulling cars on Valdez Trail].

281. [Car crossing creek at Mile 2081. 1916]

282. Edgecrombe Stage 1917 [men repairing car; winter scene].

283-285. [Car crossing creek; Valdez Trail].

286. Some of the trouble we had on the Richardson Hwy 1930 [washed out bridge].

287-288. Gibson Auto Stage in Gunney Sack Creek; Frame Driving, July 1919

289-290. Frame crossing creek at Youst at Mile 208, 1915

291-292. Stored at Paxson for the winter, 1916 [two cars up on blocks].

293-294. Stuck again [digging car out of mud].

295-296. [Valdez-Fairbanks Stage Line car on edge of stream] 1915

297-300. [Black Wolf Squadron leaving for Nome and returning from Nome]. 1922.

INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES
Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

1 Box