

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: Ward W. Wells Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1983.091

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1946-1982

Extent: 125,000 photographic prints and negatives

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Ward W. Wells

Administrative/Biographical History:

Ward Wallace Wells, Jr. (1920-1982) was born in Rich Lake, Wisconsin. He arrived first in Juneau, Alaska with his first wife Virginia in 1946 and moved to Anchorage the following year where he opened a photography studio on Fifth Avenue and G Street. Wells was active for the next thirty years, shooting commercial activities throughout the state, taking portraits, and building an extensive file of stock photographs, including images of business activities, new buildings, portraits, Fur Rendezvous, the Anchorage Symphony, and the 1964 earthquake. He also traveled extensively for work and captured many significant images of communities in northern and western Alaska. His work was featured in national magazines like Life and Time, as well as in the press and on national television. He maintained an active studio and was well known throughout the state until his death in 1982.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of approximately 125,000 images of stock and commercial work, as well as studio portraits ranging from 1946-1982. Most of the images are black and white photographic prints and negatives.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Ward W. Wells Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1983.91

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Barbara Kremer-Wells in December 1983.

Processing Note

Original processing and indexing done by Margaret Allen, museum contractor and volunteer.

SUBJECTS

Wells, Ward W. (1920-1982)

Guide written: March 25, 2022