

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

TITLE: Anna M. Crutcher Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1964.x.002

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1918-1923

Extent: 15 images, 1 folder

Language and Scripts: English

Name of creator(s): Henry G. Kaiser

Administrative/Biographical History:

Anna M. Crutcher worked for the Alaska Railroad in Seattle before coming to Anchorage, Alaska as a stenographer for Colonel Frederick Mears from 1922-1924. She met her husband J.E. Crutcher, who had worked for Colonel Mears on the Panama Railroad, in Alaska and they married in 1923.

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of photographs of scenes along the Alaska Railroad. Scenes include Bartlett Glacier, Camp 285, Caterpillar No. 4, Hurricane Gulch Bridge, Chickaloon River, the Loop District, Placer River Crossing, J. E. and Anna Crutcher, Nenana River, and Spencer Glacier. The collection is housed in the photo file collection and the AEC collection. Please see photo list for specific details.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

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

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Anna M. Crutcher Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1964.x.2

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to the Cook Inlet Historical Society by Anna M. Crutcher.

Note

The card catalogs indicates that there are nine images filed in the Alaska Engineering Commission (AEC) folders but while updating the finding aid, all images were found in the folder.

RELATED MATERIALS

- B1957.005 Jack H. Floyd Collection
- B1961.005 CIHS Collection
- B1964.001 John Urban Collection
- B1965.003 Fred B. Wood Collection
- B1970.x.002 Railroad Photograph Collection
- B1977.147
- B1979.002 Alaska Railroad Collection
- B1980.041 Dorothy Stauter Collection
- B1987.072 William Robert Mathewson Photograph Collection
- B1994.002 Wennerstrom Collection
- B1997.022 August Cohn Collection
- B2020.005 Alaska Railroad Ephemera Collection

SUBJECTS

- Crutcher, Anna M.
- Crutcher, J.E.
- Kaiser, Henry G.
- Ahtna

Alaska Engineering Commission
Alaska Railroad
Anchorage (Alaska)
Railroads – Alaska
Railroad bridges – Alaska
Railroad construction workers – Alaska
Railroad engineers – Alaska

Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – Steel gang at station 132-1 – Aug. 17 -1921. A.E.C. G1913. H.G. Kai. Back, “Track laying machine, 1921. They send the ties out on one side, lay them down in the roadbed, and then slide the steel rails out on the other side and put them in place across the ties, all at one time. Alaska R.R. [railroad construction workers laying wood ties down in front of track laying machine. Alaska Engineering Commission, August 17, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.2 – Freighting with Caterpillar from mile 271 to 284. Gov’t R-road. Oct. 8 - 1920. AEC G1644. H.G. Kaiser [freight and equipment in wagons being hauled across a creek with snow on the ground. Alaska Engineering Commission, October 8, 1920, Henry G. Kaiser]

.3 – Caterpillar No. 4 freighting from mile 285 over Broad Pass. June 20 - 1921. AEC G1804. H.G. Kai. [freight and equipment in wagons with three individuals on a dirt road with lake to the left. Alaska Engineering Commission, June 20, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.4 – Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Crutcher (Anna M.), Anchorage. Married in 1923. [two individuals identified as Anna M. Crutcher and J.E. Crutcher posed in wedding clothes with a building to the left]

.5 – Nenana River – mile 357. H.G. Kaiser [View of train on tracks with Nenana River to the left. Alaska Engineering Commission, Henry G. Kaiser]

.6 – Spencer Glacier. AEC G1059. H.G. Kaiser [view of with Chugach Mountains in the background. Alaska Engineering Commission, Henry G. Kaiser]

.7 – A log cabin home on Chickaloon River. 7 -22 -1921. AEC G1860. HGK. Back, “Looks picturesque but my word the mosquitoes. Near Anchorage.” [view of log cabin and riverbank. Ahtna territory. Alaska Engineering Commission, July 22, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.8 – Camp 285 looking south. Mar. 6 - 1921. AEC G1730. H.G. Kaiser. [view of camp with snow covering buildings and trees. Alaska Engineering Commission, March 6, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.9 – Looking south from 5th Placer River Crossing. Ap. 12 - 1921. AEC G1742. H.G. Kaiser [view of tracks and trestle bridges with snow and train in the background at center right. Alaska Engineering Commission, April 12, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.10 – Rotars cutting through snow slides – Mile 49.4. Ap. 12 - 1921. AEC G1746. H.G. Kaiser [rotary snowplow engine clearing tracks of snow in a slide area. Alaska Engineering Commission, April 12, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.11 – Seward Div Govt Railroad, Oct. 19, 1918. Looking north over miles 49 and 50-51 - Loop District. AEC G1083. H.G. Kaiser. Back, “This is almost equal to the horseshoe curves on the Southern Pacific thru the Siskiyan Mts.” [view of trestle bridges in the Loop District of the Alaska Railroad with Chugach Mountains in the background. Alaska Engineering Commission, October 19, 1918, Henry G. Kaiser]

.12 – Hurricane Gulch Bridge. Aug. 8 - 1921. AEC G1890. HGK. Back, “Wouldn’t it make you dizzy to see these men crawling around on this thing? The same bridge gang that built this structure will build to big Tanana River Bridge they are working on now and expect to finish next May.” [construction of Hurricane Gulch Bridge, Alaska Railroad. Crane at top center with construction crew members visible on bridge. Alaska Engineering Commission, August 8, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.13 – Seward Div Govt Railroad. Oct. 19 - 1918. Bartlett Glacier. AEC G1078. HGK [view of trestle bridge with Bartlett Glacier and mountains in the background. Alaska Engineering Commission, October 19, 1918, Henry G. Kaiser]

.14 – Hurricane Gulch Bridge. Aug. 8 - 1921. AEC G1885. HGK. Back, “Just one week later (August 15th) trains were operating over this bridge. The next picture [.12] shows the center section going in.” [construction of Hurricane Gulch Bridge, Alaska Railroad. Alaska Engineering Commission, August 8, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

.15 – Looking south over bridge 49-3, Apr. 12 - 1921. AEC G1735. HG Kaiser. Back, “This is what happened 49 miles north from Seward last season. Train was on the trestle and along came a snowslide and swept it 420 feet into the gulch where you see it here. This year they had no serious slides. [view of collapsed section of trestle bridge with train cars in the background covered in snow. .” [construction of Hurricane Gulch Bridge, Alaska Railroad. Crane at top center with construction crew members visible on bridge. Alaska Engineering Commission, April 12, 1921, Henry G. Kaiser]

Guide written: January 8, 2025