

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

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TITLE: John Mull III Alaskan Earthquake Reflections

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2012.036

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1964, 2012

Extent: 24 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): John P. Mull III

Administrative/Biographical History:

John P. Mull II was 17 years old and a junior at West Anchorage High School at the time of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake. His father, John P. Mull, Jr., was Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge for the State of Alaska at the time.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 23 35mm color slides and a fifteen-page typescript memoir illustrated with five copy prints of photographs showing earthquake damage in Anchorage, Alaska. Mull describes his experience of the earthquake and its aftermath, as well as the activities of the FBI in Anchorage in the days immediately following the disaster. For more information on the images, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by format.

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. A light box may be used to view the transparencies.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

John Mull III Alaskan Earthquake Reflections, Anchorage Museum, B2012.036

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Manuscript donated by John P. Mull III in December 2012. In March 2013, the donor sent digital copies of photographs, including two of a Japanese delegation that visited Anchorage in the summer of 1964; these copies were not accessioned and were added to the collection for reference only. Original 35mm slides were received in October 2013 and accessioned as an addendum to collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

CIHS McCutcheon Collection, B1964.x.006
AHFAM Earthquake Photographs, B1969.011
Betty Bannon Collection, B1970.015
Zappa Earthquake Papers, B1972.060
Portage Earthquake Photographs, B1973.070
Patricia Mayo Earthquake Time Ticket, B1974.013
Kroninger Photograph Collection, B1976.118
Army Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1977.118
Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1979.038
Woodman Photograph Collection, B1980.027
McDermott Collection, B1987.083
Ron Aldrin Earthquake Slides, B1994.024
Sanborn Recording of 1964 Earthquake, B1997.023
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Collection, B2002.002
Charles Koppel 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2002.008
Norman Campbell Photographs, B2005.041
Bronitsky Letter, B2006.021
4th and H St. Demolition Collection, B2007.002
Opal Myers 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2007.003
Christenson Slide collection, B2007.016
Bangkok Embassy Teletype Collection, B2009.044
Truth Coven Gray Earthquake Album, B2009.056

Kleihauer Slide Collection, B2010.004
Johnny Sartor Collection, B2010.020
Langford-Ose Photograph Collection, B2011.002
Kenneth C. Allen Earthquake Slides, B2012.027
Jean Kaufman Earthquake Photographs, B2012.032

SUBJECTS

Mull, John P., III
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation—History
Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964
Earthquakes--Alaska—Anchorage
Anchorage (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Photographs illustrating manuscript

- 1.1 – The back of Hillside Apartments, p. 4
- 1.2 – James Painter’s home on the bluff in Turnagain, p. 9
- 1.3 – Salvage of Frazier apartment, p. 11
- 1.4 – Fake damage, p. 12
- 1.5 – Building prior to fake damage, p. 13

35mm slides

[Captions provided by donor]

- 2.1-2.2 - West Anchorage High School
- 2.3-2.4 - Hillside Apartments - The room with the windows hanging was the apartment of FBI Special Agent James Frazier
- 2.5 - The J C Penney's Building
- 2.6-2.8 - Houses along W 9th Avenue across from the Tennis Courts at Delaney Park Strip. #7 shows a dump truck filling in a crack to allow the road to be reopened. #8 shows an impassable part of the road yet to be worked on.
- 2.9 - FBI Special Agent Peyton stands in front of the seven story Four Seasons Apartment building. The first residents were to move in the following day.
- 2.10-2.12 - Salvage operations along 4th Avenue.
- 2.13-2.14 - 4th Avenue Denali Theatre - Special Agent Peyton stands in front.
- 2.15 - Turnagain showing the high tide coming in to reclaim the land, homes and trees that slid out on the mud flats. A most remarkable shot.
- 2.16 - Turnagain Homes - The trees show the topography of the ground that settled in all directions.
- 2.17-2.18 - Home of the FBI's Chief Clerk. It shows the soil of the Turnagain area was a mixture of hard clay and soft sand. During the shaking the hard clay remained rigid where the soft sand was shaken away leaving the house vulnerable and exposed. The house appears to be sound but after a week of continuous aftershocks the house too was lost over the edge
- 2.19-2.23 - Houses in Turnagain showing evidence that a bulldozer had been sent into the area to make access roads so the residence could get back in and begin salvage operations. The unknown man in photo 23 was a resident of the area.

Guide updated: October 8, 2013