



1964 Earthquake Resource Guide

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This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating archival materials pertaining to the 1964 Alaska Earthquake (also known as the Good Friday Earthquake), in the holdings of the Bob & Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. It is not necessarily a complete listing of all earthquake-related holdings. Please contact ARC staff at resourcecenter@anchoragemuseum.org or 907-929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.

CIHS McCutcheon Collection, B1964.x.006

Steve McCutcheon donated four of his earthquake images shortly after the event. The majority of his earthquake photographs can be found in the McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014 (see below). These four include images of an earthquake-damaged column in the Cordova Building; the Cordova Building rehabilitated after the earthquake; J.C. Penney Building, March 27, 1964; and Mac's Photo Shop.

AHFAM Earthquake Photographs, B1969.011

The collection consists of 39 photographs of earthquake damage in Anchorage collected by the Municipality. Included are images of Alley Cat Bar, Army Navy Surplus Store, D&D Bar & Café, Denali Theatre, Edmunds Apartments, Emporium Bowling, Findley's Shoes, Flowers by Bagoy, Four Seasons Apartments, Frisco Café, Government Hill School, Hunter Bar, Irene Griffin Samson, Kennedy's Store, Loussac Public Library, Mac's Photo, McKinley Apartments, McLain's Camera Center, Monty's Safari Hotel, Scandinavian Club, Union Leader Store, water tower, Westward Hotel, and West High School.

Betty Bannon Collection, B1970.015

Betty Bannon donated 77 photographs of the damage from the 1964 earthquake in Anchorage, Portage, Seward, Seldovia, Homer, Kodiak, Kenai, Valdez, Whittier, and Cordova. The following list includes some of the businesses that are shown in the photographs: Alaska Native Service Hospital, Alaska Railroad, Alaska Sales and Service, Alco Towing Co., Anchor Book Shop, Arctic Plumbing & Heating, City Hall, Community Hospital, Corral Bar, D&D Bar & Café, Dalton and Co., Denali Theatre, Flowers by Bagoy, Four Seasons Apartments, Government Hill School, Inlet Hotel, J.C. Penney's, Knik Arms Apartments, Koslosky's, L Street Apartments, Mac's Photo, McKinley Apartments, McLain's Camera Center, National Bank of Alaska, Delaney Park Strip, Passage Canal

Portage Inn, Providence Hospital, Safari Hotel, Scandinavian Club, Shimek's, Turnagain Arms Apartments, Union Leader Store, Warren Painting Co., and Westward Hotel.

Zappa Earthquake Papers, B1972.060

This collection includes copies of 14 KENI press releases and one letter pertaining to the earthquake in Anchorage, collected by Dorothy Zappa. Releases were sent to Kalamazoo Gazette, Kansas City Star, McGraw-Hill World News, Washington Post, Skagit Valley Herald, UPI, Haverhill Gazette, Evening Star (Washington D.C.), Newsweek, Time, New York Times, and Vancouver (B.C.). The letter is an excerpt, identifying neither sender nor receiver, but concerns earthquake damage in Anchorage.

Portage Earthquake Photographs, B1973.070

These four photo enlargements were donated by the Coxes, who owned and operated the Chevron station in Portage. The images show damage to the Seward Highway near Portage, the Twentymile Bridge, the Alaska Railroad tracks near Twentymile, and the Chevron station.

Patricia Mayo Earthquake Time Ticket, B1974.013

This is the time card for Municipal employee Patricia Mayo, who worked on "disaster control" during the weekend after the earthquake.

FIC Collection, B1975.134

This grouping of small collections includes two photographs of earthquake damage in Anchorage, at 2048 W. Marston Dr. (158a) and below Third and C (159).

Bertha Buelow Collection, B1975.159

This slide collection contains 8 color slides (47, 50-51, 55-57, 60, 60a) showing damage to houses in the Turnagain subdivision, taken in the months after the earthquake.

Kroninger Photograph Collection, B1976.118

The Kroningers donated 17 photographs and five news clippings pertaining to the earthquake. The images show damage in downtown Anchorage, the Turnagain subdivision, and at the Anchorage airport. Several of the photographs were taken by U.S. Army personnel.

Army Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1977.118

This collection, donated by Lyman Woodman, includes 160 black-and-white photographs taken by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel after the earthquake. Many are aerial views of the Anchorage area. Subjects include damage, soil

assessments, and clean up in the Turnagain subdivision; damage and clean up in downtown Anchorage; damage to schools, housing, businesses, and utilities; the Delaney Park Strip; the Port of Anchorage; and the Alaska Native Medical Center.

FIC Collection, 1979.001

This grouping of small donations includes 16 photos (54-69) of earthquake damage, including aerials of Seward, Anchorage, Gulkana, and the Glenn Highway.

Alaska Railroad Collection, B1979.002

The earthquake affected railroad track and facilities, and the Alaska Railroad made a photographic record of both damage and repairs. The collection includes folders for high tides (115), bridges (118), Whittier (117), Portage (119 and 335), Potter Hill (120), Anchorage (122), Seward (123 and 314), repairs (121), and miscellaneous (116).

Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1979.038

This collection of 34 photographs taken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows damage at Elmendorf in Anchorage, in Seldovia, Girdwood, Valdez, Whittier, Homer, Seward, and Kodiak.

Woodman Photograph Collection, B1980.027

Lyman Woodman donated these 14 photographs of earthquake damage in Seward, Homer, and Girdwood, including some aerials.

U.S. Department of the Interior Photograph Collection, B1982.188

One photograph in this collection shows damage to the Cordova Building in Anchorage (18).

Ward Wells Collection, B1983.091

Ward Wells took photographs of the earthquake aftermath primarily in Anchorage, but also in Portage (4837.001), Turnagain Arm (4176.086, 4178.076) and Valdez (4251.001, .009, .022). A listing of Wells photo numbers by subject and location is available in the Resource Center.

Anchorage Public Information Office, B1986.096

This collection of photographic records from the Municipality's Public Information Office contains a folder of materials on the 1964 earthquake.

McDermott Collection, B1987.083

Edward McDermott was Director of the federal Office of Emergency Planning when he made an inspection trip to view earthquake damage, March 28-30, 1964. He donated 64 black-and-white photographs and 55 color slides of Anchorage, Seward, and Kodiak, along with a film, "Dateline Alaska," prepared by the U.S. Air Force Photographic Service, and an audio recording of a speech he made to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and Bar Association.

Lu Liston Collection, B1989.016

Lu Liston was the last proprietor of Hewitt's Drug Store, which operated a commercial photography business offering film supplies and services as well as stock and commercial photography. The collection includes 23 images documenting earthquake damage and recovery (.2132.1-.2132.2, .2873-.2893). There are images of Liston's backyard in Turnagain, his Porsche parked in downtown Anchorage, and the interior of the store after the quake.

Steve McCutcheon Collection, B1990.014

Steve McCutcheon captured hundreds of images of earthquake damage around Alaska. The photos can mostly be found in his negative series B1990.014.5.EQ, and in his slides series (locations 99 and L144). The negative subseries are:

EQ 1 General	EQ 14 Mac's and McCutcheon Family
EQ 2 Air Views of Anchorage	EQ 15 Reconstruction
EQ 3 Alaska Native Service Hospital	EQ 16 Central Business District
EQ 4 Alaska Railroad	EQ 17 Central Business District Later
EQ 5 Anchorage Airport	EQ 18 J.C. Penney's
EQ 6 Anchorage Sand and Gravel	EQ 19 Schools
EQ 7 Cordova Building	EQ 20 Turnagain
EQ 8 Curiosities and Cracks	EQ 21 Turnagain Later
EQ 9 Docks	EQ 22 Highway Damage
EQ 10 East 5th Avenue (Alaska Sales and Service)	EQ 23 Whittier and Portage
EQ 11 Fires	EQ 24 Air views not Anchorage
EQ 12 Fireweed Lane	EQ 25 Aleut Relocation
EQ 13 L Street	EQ 26 Turnagain Arm

Ron Aldrin Earthquake Slides, B1994.024

This collection contains of copies of 29 slides taken by Ron Aldrin, who was stationed at Elmendorf in Anchorage during 1964, along with audiocassettes and a videocassette of contemporary news accounts.

John Bagoy Collection, B1996.032

This collection of photographs of Anchorage includes one of earthquake damage in the central business district (33).

Opal Meyers Collection, B1997.007

Included in this collection are several black-and-white and color photographs (4-26) of earthquake damage in Anchorage, including Fourth Avenue, C Street, Wolfe's, First Federal Savings and Loan, Anchorage Hardware, and Mint Bar.

B1997.021 Though the Earth Be Moved

Produced by the U.S. Office of Civil Defense in 1965, this film documents the 1964 Alaska earthquake. A typescript note inside the carrying case reads in part: "Two mates, equipped with 8 m.m. moving cameras were about to take some movies as the ship was getting ready to depart and the quake hit—the film will illustrate how they hung on to the ship—but still got the shots of an earthquake in ACTION. Most of the film was secured from private citizens, some professional film has been integrated and the sound track is an added feature. The ship Chena was tied, at dock, in Valdez."

B1997.023 Sanborn Recording of 1964 Earthquake

Eugene Hallam was an inertial platform technician at Litton Industries in California when he was scheduled to assist testers on March 27, 1964. The testers thought the unusual activity was being caused by a "power bump," but Hallam convinced them to keep the equipment running, thus recording earth movements from the Alaska Earthquake.

FIC Collection, B1998.002

This grouping of small donations includes five photographs (73-77) of damage to homes and businesses in Anchorage, including Union Leader and Denali Theatre.

Vern Brickley Collection, B1998.014

Vern Brickley was an Alaska-based photographer from 1940 until his death in 1970. In 1958, Brickley became a photographer for the Army Corps of Engineers, working for the District Engineers at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Many of the Corp photographs of the 1964 earthquake are his work. The Museum's collection includes hundreds of negatives of damage and post-earthquake recovery in Anchorage, numbered B1998.014.1.4338 to 4635.

FIC Collection, B2001.002.11

This set of 128 negatives was donated anonymously to the Museum. It includes 89 images of earthquake damage in Anchorage, showing damage to homes and businesses on Fourth Avenue, Government Hill, Ship Creek, and other locations.

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Collection, B2002.002

These 18 color photographs of the 1964 earthquake were donated to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and then transferred to the Museum. Included are images of damage to apartment complexes and homes in the Anchorage area.

Charles Koppel 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2002.008

This is a small collection of 13 letters and 3 news clippings from the 1964 earthquake, collected by Charles Koppel of Charles Koppel Co., distributors, Seattle. Koppel sent and received correspondence with clients in Alaska in the wake of the earthquake.

Norman Campbell Photographs, B2005.041

This collection includes 18 black-and-white photographs of earthquake damage in Anchorage, primarily along Fourth and Fifth Avenues in the downtown area.

Bronitsky Letter, B2006.021

This letter, to Gordon from Ruth, March 30, 1964, discusses impact of the earthquake in Anchorage.

Redington Family Collection, B2006.023

Among the thousands of photographs taken by Joe Redington Sr. and other members of his family are several color 35mm slides of earthquake damage in the Anchorage – Knik Arm area (709-7118). Damage to homes in the Turnagain subdivision is seen from land and from the Inlet (7117-7118). Images of damaged businesses include Koslosky's (7099).

Opal Myers 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2007.003

The 16 photographs in this collection document the demolition of buildings in downtown Anchorage after the earthquake. Businesses include Anchorage Cold Storage, E & E Apartments, Hunter Bar, First Federal Savings and Loan, Wolfe's Hardware and Furniture, Montana Club, Mint Bar, McKay Building, and Four Seasons Apartments.

Christenson Slide Collection, B2007.016

This collection includes 161 slides of earthquake damage in Anchorage. Included are images of Government Hill, Turnagain, and downtown. A complete list of descriptions is available on the Museum web site.

Chester and Leah Peterson Collection, B2008.005

Chester and Leah Peterson were both working in the Anchorage School District during the time of the earthquake. This large collection includes 12 color slides (.308-.319) of destruction, primarily in Anchorage, with J.C. Penney, Anchorage Hardware, Fourth Avenue, and other structures, as well as damage to roads.

Henry M. deButts Slides, B2009.038

Henry M. deButts was assistant to the chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board when he traveled to Alaska in May and June of 1964. Slides 1-49 record earthquake damage that deButts saw, primarily in Anchorage.

Bangkok Embassy Teletype Collection, B2009.044

Twenty-four teletypes of news releases included in this collection give an international perspective on the earthquake.

Truth Coven Gray Earthquake Album, B2009.056

This spiral bound photo scrapbook contains 99 images of earthquake damage to homes and businesses in Anchorage. Businesses depicted include Anchorage Hardware, Mac's Photo, BJ's Pool Hall, Denali Theater, Bagoy's, Ellen's Jewelers, Hofbrau Restaurant, D & D Café, Inlet Hotel, J.C. Penney, Mehner's Restaurant, Pacific Finance Loans, Mary Lou's Café, Howard's Gift Shop, Book Cache, Alaska Sales and Service, Playboy Lounge, McLain's Camera Center, Anchorage Cold Storage, First Federal Savings and Loan, and Edgewater Motel.

Kleihauer Slide Collection, B2010.004

This collection consists of 15 slides of earthquake damage to homes and businesses in Anchorage, including the Book Cache.

Johnny Sartor Collection, B2010.020

Included in this collection are 16 color slides of earthquake damage in Anchorage, primarily in the central business district. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Lankford-Ose Photograph Collection, B2011.002

These 18 color slides show earthquake damage on Government Hill and in downtown Anchorage including Fourth and Fifth Avenues, J.C. Penney, Monty's, Denali Theater, McKay Building, and Bagoy's. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Kenneth C. Allen Earthquake Slides, B2012.027

The collection includes 28 35mm slides of damage from the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, taken in Anchorage and Seward by Kenneth C. Allen, including railroad facilities, homes, and businesses. Allen was a resident of Anchorage at the time of the earthquake. He was also reportedly one of the first people to travel to Seward after the quake, flying there in his personal float plane to survey damage. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Hobart Hyatt Collection, B2012.030

Within this large collection of slides and other materials from surveyor Hobart Hyatt are nearly a hundred images (.3619-.3708) of the aftermath of the earthquake. The color photographs are primarily of downtown Anchorage from A to O Streets and the residential Turnagain area taken in the period March 28-May 23, 1964. Also included are sites along the Seward Highway such as Bird Creek and Girdwood, and one image of a damaged bridge on the Sterling Highway near Kenai Lake. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Jean Kaufman Earthquake Photographs, B2012.032

The collection consists of 29 black-and-white photographs of earthquake damage in Anchorage taken in March or April 1964. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

John Mull III Alaskan Earthquake Reflections, B2012.036

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. In this memoir, accompanied by 5 copy prints and 23 35mm slides, 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. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Sportsman's Club Earthquake Photographs, B2013.001

Cecil A. Poythress owned and operated the Sportsman's Club in Anchorage at the time of the 1964 Good Friday Alaska Earthquake. He and his son donated four black-and-white 8 x 10 photographic prints, one showing the club interior prior to the earthquake, and three showing damage to the building after the earthquake. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Harold and Malita Hitchen Collection, B2013.010

In this large collection compiled by longtime Anchorage residents, photographs .995-.1032 depict scenes of the aftermath of the earthquake, primarily in downtown Anchorage and the Turnagain area. Four images show snow slides along the Seward Highway, and one shows a damaged steel structure in Seward. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Bill and Ellyn Frye letter regarding the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, B2013.011

Bill Frye was working at Alaska Sales and Service and Ellyn was a school teacher in Anchorage at the time of the earthquake, and this letter to Ellyn's mother in California, dated April 3, 1964, records their impressions of the event

Milo Fritz Letter to Folks, 1964, B2013.046

Milo Fritz was a physician in Anchorage at the time of the earthquake. The letter, dated July 2, 1964, recounts his experience of the earthquake and its aftermath, describing in particular many of the cases that came into the hospital in the moments following the disaster. Fritz also held medical clinics in Fairbanks and Sitka after the earthquake, and describes his experiences in those towns

Grace Tucker Letter to Folks, 1964, B2013.051

Grace Tucker was a property owner and landlord in Anchorage at the time of the earthquake. The letter, dated April 17, April 30, and May 5, 1964, recounts her experience of the quake and talks in particular about her sister-in-law's experience of being inside the J.C. Penney store when the quake struck.

Col. Paul W. Stephens 1964 Alaska Earthquake Photographs, B2013.061

This collection consists of 136 black-and-white photographs used to illustrate a report on damage from the 1964 Alaska Earthquake on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, compiled by Col. Paul W. Stephens. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

John Broostrom Photographs, B2013.064

John and Ethel Broostrom were longtime residents of Sand Lake. The collection includes 40 snapshots (.178-.217) and 11 commercial photographs (.218-.228) of earthquake damage to schools, homes, and businesses. All are color 35mm slides. Businesses documented include Anchorage Cold Storage, Dalton and Co., Dicy's House of Fabrics, Arthur's Jewelry Nugget Shop, Reeve Aleutian Airways, Mary Lou's Café, Howard's Gunshop, Mehner's Restaurant, Pacific Finance Loans, Rendezvous, J.C. Penney, Army/Navy Store, Scandinavian Club, Panhandle Bar, Hi Hat Club, Hunter Bar, Hotel

Lane, Pioneer Loan Co., D & D Café, Sportsman's Club, Frisco Café, Mac's Foto, McLain's Camera Center, Alaska Sales & Service, and Anchorage Vacuum & Sewing Center. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Joe Crusey Photographs, B2013.070

Joe Crusey was working as an insurance adjustor at the time of the 1964 earthquake. This collection includes one print and two contact sheets of images of earthquake damage in Anchorage and Kodiak (.148-200), including residential areas and Anchorage businesses such as J.C. Penney, D & D Café, Sportsman's Club, Frisco Café, McLain's Camera Center, Nerland's, Craig's, Singer, Book Cache, Igloo Native Arts and Crafts, Mac's Foto, Scandinavian Club, Sam's Liquor Store, Alaska Trading Post Loans, Safari Hotel, Sedalia Shine Parlor, Union Leader, Denali Grill, BJ's Billiards, Hobby Lobby, Koslosky's, First Federal Savings, Golden Horseshoe, Bagoy's, Green Dragon, Bowling Emporium, Turf Sport Center, HFC Loans, Mutual of New York, Mary Lou's Café, Howard's Gunshop, Mehner's Restaurant, Pacific Finance Loans, and Television Rendezvous. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Louise Gallop Collection, B2014.001

Anchorage teacher and gold miner Louise Gallop was working at Rabbit Creek Elementary School at the time of the earthquake. Her collection contains color 35mm slides (.447-475) showing scenes of damage to houses and businesses in Anchorage, primarily on Fourth Avenue, including Sedalia Shine Parlor, Denali Theatre, Scandinavian Club, Anchorage Hardware, McLain's Camera Center, Mac's Foto, J.C. Penney, Bowling Emporium, Monty's, and BJ's Billiards. Two images show a barricade on the Seward Highway prohibiting vehicle traffic. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Thomas "Cliff" Fuglestad Photographs, B2014.005

Cliff Fuglestad was an engineer with the Alaska Railroad at the time of the earthquake, and his collection includes approximately 60 black-and-white prints and 100 color 35mm slides of earthquake damage to railroad track and facilities from Seward to Hurricane Gulch, including Whittier. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

J. O. Anderson 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B2014.006

The Anderson family was living in Anchorage at the time of the earthquake, and took 77 black-and-white photographs of damage to residential and business areas. Locations include Fourth Avenue and other downtown streets, Government Hill, Elmendorf Air

Force Base, and Turnagain. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Helen M. Bucy 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2014.008

After the earthquake, Anchorage resident Helen Bucy created a photograph album containing 106 black-and-white and color prints, and a clippings scrapbook of news stories she had collected. Her collection also contains several publications and loose clippings from national magazines, as well as the Anchorage Daily News, the Anchorage Daily Times, and the Fairbanks News-Miner. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.

Walter Deane 1964 Alaska Earthquake Photographs, B2014.011

Anchorage schoolteacher Walter Deane took 58 photographs of earthquake destruction in Anchorage and on the Seward Highway. The collection includes both black-and-white prints and the associated 35mm negatives. A complete list with descriptions is available on the Museum website.