



# Alaska in the Cold War Archival Resource Guide

Compiled by Samuel Dinges, William E. Davis Intern

May - August 2014

Updated 5/24/19 by Sara Piasecki, Archivist

*This guide is intended to assist researchers in locating materials pertaining to Cold War installations in Alaska 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 Cold War-related holdings. Please contact ARC staff at [resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org](mailto:resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org) or 907-929-9235 for assistance in locating other collections of interest.*

The collections are ordered by collection number. Much of the extent of the resources in this resource guide pertain to the White Alice communication sites and the DEW (Distant Early Warning) sites that were constructed during the Cold War to strengthen Alaskan communications infrastructure and provide advance warning if an attack came from the north. An index of all the DEW line and White Alice sites is included, and provides references to collections by site to make finding widespread information about a single site less time consuming. Additionally, there is a list of books on Alaska's military history from the Atwood Alaska Resource Center pertaining to the Cold War after the index. At the end is a list of individual specific images from some of the larger collections.

## Contents:

Introduction, summary of collections ordered by collection number.

Index of White Alice/DEW Line images by site.

Books in the Atwood Resource Center Library on Alaska during the Cold War.

Image appendices for McCutcheon and Brickley collections.

## Ward Wells Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1983.091

Ward Wells was a well-known professional Alaskan photographer, and his collection at the Atwood Resource Center constitutes one of the largest in the archive. One negative in this expansive collection, 3344.001, provides an excellent aerial view of the King Salmon radar site in 1961, with the domes and main complex clearly visible. It is a quality image of a White Alice facility while in operation during high Cold War tensions.



### **Steve McCutcheon Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1990.014

The Steve McCutcheon Collection is the largest collection of images in the Atwood Resource Center Archive, containing an estimated 140,000 negatives, slides, and glass lantern slides. Among these are a small number of photos dealing with Cold War military installations in Alaska, namely at Adak and at Cape Newenham. *See image appendices for photo references.*

### **Doris Rhodes Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1993.020

One image in this collection of 3,797 mostly personal and commercial photographs, Slide .2323, depicts large DEW structures and storage tanks at Pillar Mountain. White Alice station, Kodiak, Oct. 1975.

### **Bill Ray White Alice Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1994.009

This collection is the ultimate resource the archive possesses on all things White Alice, and contains expansive information on many other Cold War activities as well. It was named for Bill Ray, a contract officer for the White Alice Project. The collection was donated by his wife, Frances, in 1994 following his death. It contains photos not only of nearly all the White Alice installations, but even of their construction and prototypes built in the south. Most every photo has its own identification, and all of them are organized into clearly labeled folders. In addition to photographs, this collection contains weekly reports of Project 717 detailing the status of each and every site from July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1957 until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1958, along with a number of maps with the locations of all the White Alice sites from their inception.

The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website. This collection is an excellent starting point for visual and document-based history for any White Alice facility. See also the William C. and Frances P. Ray Slides, collection number B2016.006, which contains color 35mm slides of many of the same sites.

### **Louis Fletcher Photographs**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1995.030

This collection features 365 prints, negatives, and postcards of Alaska, a number among them of DEW line activities, particularly at Point Barrow, which was a major hub for a number of the smaller northernmost sites. Pictures of personnel, trackmasters, radar domes, and communications equipment are all abundant.

### **James W. Stuhler Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1997.011

James W. Stuhler worked for the Defense Environmental Restoration Account supervising the cleanup of retired Alaska military sites from 1966 – 1985. His slides range from WWII military bases to shoots of the Alaska State Fair. Included in this sizable collection are 75 color slides of the Kaktovik/Barter Island DEW Line site, as well as 4 color slides from the Anvil Mountain site near



Nome. Featured images include many aerial shots of the sites, close ups of the radar dishes, and numerous shots that depict the materials left to be cleaned up as of 1985. The Barter Island images are found from .297 – .377 in the Kaktovik folder, while images .403 – .405 and .425 of Anvil Mountain are located in the Nome/Yakutat folder. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website. Representative slides are as follows:

- Slide .302 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site airport]
- Slide .304 [Kaktovik DEW site with satellite dishes and storage tanks in the background]
- Slide .306 [Aerial view of DEW facility by the water (Kaktovik)]
- Slide .309 [Aerial shot of most of Kaktovik DEW site facility]
- Slide .313 [DEW site structures on the Kaktovik tundra]
- Slide .319 [Close up shot of satellite dishes on Kaktovik DEW site]
- Slide .323 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site]
- Slide .335 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site]
- Slide .345 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site with collapsed tower structure]
- Slide .346 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site buildings with collapsed tower]
- Slide .347 [Aerial view of Kaktovik DEW site, solitary building on the tundra]
- Slide .353 [Aerial view of DEW site radar panel and structures]
- Slide .403 [Nome DEW site buildings, with radar panel in the background]
- Slide .405 [Nome DEW site radar panel, side view]

### **Vern Brickley Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1998.014

Vern Brickley was a professional Alaskan photographer for almost thirty years, working with military and civilian clients. His expansive collection contains his own photos in addition to those of many other artists, and in that collection is a negative of Barter Island along with several of Clear Air Guard Base during its construction. The Barter Island photo is number .4636, and the Clear station is found from .4723-.4727. *See image appendices for photo references.*

### **Cecile K. Richter Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2001.034

Cecile K. Richter was a surveyor for the Army Corps of Engineers who assisted in surveying and assessing military sites before the demolition of sites considered environmentally hazardous. Her collection contains many declassified documents, such as lists of airfields, inventories of toxic and non-toxic sites, maps, geological surveys, and many other records.

### **Willard “Bill” Christensen Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2004.006

These slides are the product of photos taken by Bill Christensen from 1950-1957 of his tours of duty working on White Alice facilities. Most of the slides are not actually of radar installations, but of other parts of Alaska, however, he does have some good shots of Cape Romanzof and Unalakleet found in slides numbered .1 - .8. The images have suffered some damage, and thusly are not high quality.



### **Radar Station Album**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2006.005

This collection of prints and negative strips contains a sizable number of images of White Alice installations. The collection is comprised of a photo album, which contains almost exclusively radar site images, and a box of loose photographs and negatives containing a much more mixed array. None of the sites in the images have been identified, but they are estimated to have been taken in the late fifties. The collection depicts largely the construction of these radar sites though, and provides many good images pertaining to the manner of their building.

### **William Zeddies, Sr., Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2011.009

A veteran of bomber crews in World War II, Zeddies went on to work as a maintenance foreman on the DEW line sites from 1966 to 1977. A number of his slides depict his experiences up on the sites, documenting mainly the activities undertaken by the personnel while on the sites as well as the equipment they used to complete their tasks.

### **William Jennings Bryan Swank Photographs**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2012.006

William Jennings Bryan Swank moved to Anchorage in 1953 and worked as a civilian electrician for the military until the late 1960s. The collection consists of 1006 slides and 103 images on 35mm color strip negatives, depicting primarily Anchorage and many Alaskan radar sites including Unalakleet, King Salmon, Sparrevohn, Newenham, Romanzof, Sitkinak, Shemya, Kotzebue, Tatalina, and Lisbourne. Included are images of construction, facilities, personnel, and equipment. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.

### **Hobart Hyatt Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2012.030

Between 1950 and 1975, Hobart Hyatt worked as a surveyor for the Bureau of Land Management. His collection of nearly four thousand slides mostly depicts his time spent in Alaska. Image .1469 is of the King Salmon White Alice station, taken during Hyatt's Bristol Bay Tour, Oct. 10, 1957. It is an excellent image of a station in operation within years of its construction.

### **Louise Gallop Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2014.001

Louise Gallop was a longtime Alaska teacher and resident of the state from 1961 until 2013. She posthumously donated her sizable collection of Alaska photos, journals, and other miscellaneous documents to the Anchorage Museum, where she had frequently volunteered. Included in this collection are a small number of slides pertaining to the Cold War radar sites; one slide of Nome, and two of Unalakleet. They were taken from the airstrip and all show the site in the distance.

- .188 – Tundra, "White Alice", Nome [distant view of tropospheric scatter equipment on bluff, Anvil Mountain White Alice Communications System installation]



- .199 – “White Alice,” Unalakleet [two small airplanes parked on airstrip, communications installation on hills in distance]
- .200 – Airport & “White Alice,” Unalakleet [passengers near large Alaska Airlines airplane and smaller airplane on airstrip, communications installation on hills in distance]

### **Don Horter Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** 2014.016

Don Horter was a professional photographer and documentarian who worked in Alaska during the 1940s-1960s. He created two documentaries on the building of a road to the North Slope to ferry supplies for construction of DEW Line sites (*Bulldog Convoy in the Arctic* and *Wheels to the Arctic*, both 1955). The collection includes hundreds of black-and-white photographic prints and color transparencies of road construction and truck convoys traveling the route in 1955.

### **James M. Dinges Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2014.025

James M. Dinges came to Alaska first as a weather observer for the US Air Force and later as a civilian contractor on the Long Range Radar Sites (LRRS) in the 1980s. He worked at a number of sites that formerly functioned as White Alice or DEW line installations. His collection includes 93 slides and 62 color prints, as well as two base newspapers and a television guide from Galena in 1979. Also included is an Alaska Air Command book that contains the location of each Cold War site, the cost to construct each site, and numerous assorted statistics regarding LRRS. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.

### **William P. Freeborn Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2016.007

Bill Freeborn traveled by motor home from Pennsylvania to Alaska in 1975 and to the Canadian Arctic in 1986. He documented the White Alice radar site at Kodiak in two images (.502-503) and the DEW Line installation at Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories in four images (.1224, .1225, .1267, .1271).

### **William C. and Frances P. Ray Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2016.006

This collection contains images from Bill and Frances Ray’s travels in Alaska and Canada, as well as 279 color photographs taken by Bill during his work as a contractor for the White Alice program. The slides include aerial views and views of construction, equipment, and supplies at radar sites including Aniak, Anvil Mountain, Bear Creek, Big Mountain, Boswell Bay, Cape Lisburne, Cape Newenham, Cape Romanzof, Fort Yukon, Granite Mountain, Indian Mountain, Kalakaket Creek, Kotzebue, Middleton Island, Unalakleet, Sparrevohn, Tatalina, Tin City, Pedro Dome, Driftwood Bay, and Port Moller. There are also many images of unidentified sites. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website. See also the Bill Ray White Alice Collection, collection number B1994.009, described above.

### **Ronald Hahn Slides**



**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2016.021

This collection contains 103 color 35mm slides pertaining to the construction of Nike sites (Point, Bay, and Summit) in the Anchorage area in early 1958. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.

**Wesley Randles Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2017.002

Wesley Randles worked at the DEW Line site at Point Barrow during 1956-1957. His collection of slides includes ten images of the site (.1-10), including one image of a polar bear shot by base personnel after it attacked a Jeep (.11). The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.

**Elanor Marie Johnston Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2017.019

Elanor worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage from about 1950 to the late 1970s. Her husband, Noble O. "Johnny" Johnston may have worked as a civilian contractor for the military during that time. This large collection of their photographs includes nine images of unidentified DEW Line or White Alice sites (.541-544, .555-557, .696, .702) taken in the late 1950s.

**Joseph S. Rychetnik Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2017.024

Joe Rychetnik was a photojournalist based in Alaska in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This extensive collection of his freelance work includes images of military activities, the 1969 nuclear test on Amchitka, and radar sites at Barrow, Cape Lisburne, Clear, Delta Junction, Tin City, and an unidentified location. See the collection guide for more details.

**John Minier Nike Site Summit Collection**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2018.018

John Minier was commander in charge of Battery B at the time of the deactivation of Nike Site Summit. This collection contains a site guest book, five photographs, and ephemera pertaining to the closure of the site in 1979. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.

**George Darrow Slides**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2019.006

George Darrow came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1973 and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base. There, he was assigned to the 1931st Communications Group--Radio Maintenance, with a temporary duty assignment to Shemya from November 1974-February 1975. His collection of slides includes 78 images of military installations at Anchorage and remote radar sites including Cape Newenham Air Force Station, Tin City Air Force Station, Sparrevohn Air Force Station, Indian Mountain Air Force Station, Cape Lisburne Long Range Radar Station, and Kotzebue Air Force Station. The collection has its own online resource guide, which can be viewed on the museum website.



## Index of White Alice Images by Site

<u>Tropospheric Scatter Sites</u>	<u>Collection #</u>
Aniak.....	B94.9.397-414, .1298-.1308; B16.6.2672-2673, .2771-2772
Anvil Mountain.....	B94.9.415-476, B1997.011, B2014.001, B2016.6.2674
Bear Creek.....	B94.9.477-585, B16.6.2860-2868
Bethel .....	B94.9.586-605, 1356a&b
Big Mountain.....	B94.9.606-658, B16.6.2661-2671
Boswell Bay.....	B94.9.659-695, B16.6.2677-2682
Cape Lisburne.....	B94.9.974-975, 1339-1346, B16.6.2799-2804, B2017.024
Cape Newenham.....	B1990.014.3, B94.9.1086-1093, 1357a-1358b, B2014.025, B16.6.2701, 2746-2760
Cape Romanzof.....	B94.9.1175-1251, B2014.025, B16.6.2683-2686
Fort Yukon.....	B94.9.715-722, B16.6.2227-2231
Granite Mountain.....	B94.9.723-901, B16.6.2688-2693
Indian Mountain.....	B94.9.902-909, B2014.025, B16.6.2694-2695, 2899-2915
Kalakaket Creek.....	B94.9.910-937, B16.6.2657-2660, 2697, 2761-2765
King Salmon.....	B1983.091, B94.9.938-947, 1347a-1347b, B2012.030
Kotzebue.....	B94.9.948-973, 1333-1338, B2012.006, B16.6.2696
Middleton Island.....	B94.9.976-979, B16.6.2642-2650
North River (Unalakleet).....	B94.9.1084-1100, 1328-1332, B2012.006, B2014.001, B16.6.2713, 2793-2797
Northeast Cape.....	B94.9.1101-1117
Pillar Mountain (Kodiak).....	B1993.020, B94.9.1144-1172, 1353a-1355b
Sparrevohn.....	B94.9.1252-1267, B2012.006, B2014.025, B16.6.2704-2705
Tatalina.....	B94.9.1270-1286, .1309, B16.6.2698, 2706-2708, 2766-2770
Tin City.....	B94.9.1287-1297, B2014.025, B16.6.2709-2712, B2017.024

### Microwave Sites:

Clam Gulch.....	B94.9.696-701, 1348a-1349b
Naptowne.....	B94.9.980-988
Rabbit Creek.....	B94.9.1173-1174
R1-N aka Anchorage.....	
Soldotna.....	B94.9.1359a&b
Starisky.....	B94.9.1360a-1365

### Dual Tropo/Micro Sites

Diamond Ridge.....	B94.9.702-709, 1350a-1352b
Neklasson Lake.....	B94.9.989-1045
Pedro Dome.....	B94.9.1118-1143, B16.6.2869

### Project Stretchout Sites



Cape Sarichef..... 8





Cold Bay.....

Driftwood Bay.....B16.6.2715-2740

Nikolski.....

Port Heiden.....

Port Moller.....B16.6.1765-1766

Progress Bluegrass Sites

Adak.....B1990.014

Shemya Island.....B2012.006

Index of DEW line Images by Site:

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Collection #</u>
Anchorage.....	
Barter Island.....	B1997.011, B2014.025, B2017.002
Brownlow Point.....	B1998.14
Cape Lisburne.....	B94.9.974-975, 1339-1346, B16.6.2799-2804
Cape Sabine.....	
Cape Sarichef.....	
Cape Simpson.....	
Cold Bay.....	
Demarcation Bay aka Nuvagapek Point.....	
Driftwood Bay.....	B16.6.2715-2740
Flaxman Island.....	
Icy Cape.....	
Korgu.....	
Lonely/Point Lonely .....	
Nikolski.....	
Oliktok Point.....	
Peard Bay.....	
Point Barrow.....	B1995.030, B2017.002
Port Heiden.....	
Point Lay.....	
Point McIntyre.....	
Port Moller.....	
Wainwright.....	9



## Cold War Books in the Atwood Resource Center Library

*The DEW line years: voices from the coldest cold war* / Frances Jewel Dickson.

**Call #:** UG612.5 .C2 D52 2007

*Cold war soldier: a history of early Alaska and early Anchorage* / Bruce I. Staser

**Call #:** F909 .S82 2005

*Chronicles of a cold, cold war: the paperwork battle for Wrangel Island* / Melody Webb

**Call #:** DK771.N6 W42

*Aunt Phil's trunk: an Alaska historian's collection of treasured tales v.4* / Phyllis Downing Carlson, Laurel Downing Bill

**Call #:** F909.C274 2008

*Alutiiq villages under Russian and U.S. rule* / Sonja Lührmann

**Call #:** E99.E7 L82 2000

*Alaska's builders: 50 years of construction in the 49th state.* / Associated General Contractors of America. Alaska chapter.

**Call #:** TA6.A4 C75

*Armed forces on a northern frontier: the military in Alaska's history, 1867-1987* /

Lyman L. Woodman, Lt. Colonel

**Call #:** UA26 .A73 N54



## Extra Image Appendices

### Steve McCutcheon Collection B1990.14

- TV1 – B90.14.5.TV.1.7 – [White Alice radar panels overlooking Adak harbor]
- TV1 – B90.14.5.TV.1.21 – [White Alice radar panels overlooking Adak harbor]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.5 – [Cape Newenham White Alice facility]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.7 – [Cape Newenham White Alice radar dome]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.8 – [Cape Newenham White Alice radar facility]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.9 – [Cape Newenham White Alice radar facility view of bottom camp from tram]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.10 – [Cape Newenham White Alice radar facility view of bottom camp from tram]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.11 – [Cape Newenham White Alice radar dome]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.12 [Cape Newenham White Alice site runway]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.139.14 [Cape Newenham White Alice facility ground view of tram car]
- TV129 – B90.14.5.TV.129.16 [Cape Newenham White Alice facility underside view of tram car]

### Brickley Collection B1998.14

- B1998.014.1.4636 – [Barter Island radar site, aerial view]
- B1998.014.1.4723 – [Clear, radar dishes under construction]
- B1998.014.1.4724 – [Clear, men constructing site]
- B1998.014.1.4725 – [Clear, men constructing site]
- B1998.014.1.4726 – [Clear, site under construction]