

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

**TITLE:** B1966.010

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** CIHS Anderson

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1919

Extent: 44 items; 2 folders

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Andy W. Anderson

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Lieutenant Andy W. Anderson came to Anchorage in 1919 to prospect and ended up in Tyonek to participate in commercial whaling of beluga whales. Nothing else is known about the donor at this time.

**Scope and Content Description:**

This collection consists of 44 items depicting Anchorage, Tyonek, and other sites around Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) and Dena'ina land.

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:

The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:

CIHS Anderson, Anchorage Museum, B1966.10

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Andy W. Anderson to the Cook Inlet Historical Society in June 1966.

Processing Note

Copy negatives, and possibly original negatives, are included with the collection, which is why they do not have unique item numbers and are listed in a separate folder.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

B1965.004 Whittington Photographs

B2012.024 Anchorage Fourth of July Parade Photographs

B2015.034 Anchorage Fourth of July Parade Slides

**SUBJECTS**

Anderson, Lieutenant Andy W.

Bartels, Red Jack

Ellexson, L.D.

Headland, John

Hedberg, John

Magill, Joe

Romig, Robert "Bob"

Robarts, Jack

Robarts, Tory

Robarts, Mona

Wise, Lee

Dena'ina

Anchorage (Alaska)

Tyonek (Alaska)

Alaska Railroad

Alaska Commercial Company

Whaling—Alaska

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Folder 1

.1 – Lt. A.W. (Andy) Anderson came to Anchorage in 1919 to prospect. Instead, he ventured to Tyonek and caught belugas [one individual identified as Lieutenant Andy W. Anderson standing in uniform with a building in the background]

.2a – Posing on a board walk near the Knik Arm waters are 2 old time Alaskans with Lee Wise, who came to Anchorage in 1919 with Anderson. John Hedberg is in the center. Man at left is unidentified. Wise and Anderson were just out of the army when they made their Alaska trip, snapping pictures constantly [three individuals, identified as unidentified at left, John Hedberg at center, and Lee Wise at right, standing on a boardwalk with Alaska Commercial Buildings to the left and the Beluga River to the right. Same as .2b]

.2b – [unidentified], John Headland and Lee Wise at Alaska Commercial Bldgs. on Beluga River, 1919 [three individuals, identified as unidentified at left, John Hedberg at center, and Lee Wise at right, standing on a boardwalk with Alaska Commercial Buildings to the left and the Beluga River to the right. Same as .2a]

.3a – Alaska Railroad float, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Anchorage, 1919 [four horses in harness pulling a railroad car decorated with United States flags. People watching the parade from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background. July 4, 1919. Same as .3b]

.3b – Horses prance and a float is pulled down Anchorage's Main St. – now 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration of 1919 brought homesteaders from throughout the inlet area to Anchorage. Even a baseball game was played on the mudflats near the community [four horses in harness pulling a railroad car decorated with United States flags. People watching the parade from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background. July 4, 1919. Same as .3a and B1965.004.38]

.4 – A boat was used by Anderson and Wise to trap belugas at Three-mile Creek in 1919. The belugas would chase the salmon up the stream. Then the men would close the exit off and trap the belugas when the tide went out. [two individuals on a boat with ropes, nets, and barrels tied off to shore]

.5 – A view of Anchorage looking north along the mudflats from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. of today – was snapped by Anderson. There was but a single pier standing in the port area and it was not used that summer because of extreme conditions [view of Nuti (Knik Arm) and Dgheyay Leht (Ship Creek) with wood structures in the foreground, railroad tracks along the shoreline, and buildings and docks in the background]

.6a – Fourth of July Parade in Anchorage, 1919 [four individuals in an automobile with a long canon-like decoration at the back with a sign that reads, "Big Bertha, Our Captured Trophy,"

Anchorage, July 4, 1919. A group of individuals watching from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background. Same as .6b]

.6b – “Big Bertha” is driven through Anchorage during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The auto, draped in banners and a flag, carried 2 soldiers and the harmless cannon, entitled “Big Bertha, Our Captured Trophy.” [four individuals in an automobile with a long canon-like decoration at the back with a sign that reads, “Big Bertha, Our Captured Trophy,” Anchorage, July 4, 1919. A group of individuals watching from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background. Same as .6a]

.7 – Bears haven’t changed much. This cabin was torn up by bears while its owner, a Mr. Carter, who also operated a general store in Anchorage was away. Anderson was brought to the camp by Carter in summer, 1919. [camp with two log cabins, a stove, galvanized tub, table, dishes, buckets, and a dog in the middle]

.8 – Fashions were different. Here, a foursome poses on the deck of a ship leaving Anchorage for Seattle 47 years ago. The men, unidentified, are with Mrs. Byrle Polly, left, and Mona Robard. The Robard family operated a pool and dance hall next to the Empress Theater in Anchorage “early days.” [four individuals in western dress stand on the deck of a ship with a lifeboat in the background. The two individuals at center are identified as Byrle Polly (wearing a sweater with a belt and coat) and Mona Robarts (wearing a hat and coat)]

.9 – Bob Reeve. Fourth Ave., Anchorage [street view of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Anchorage, with the Empress Theatre and C.W. Bolte Hardware to the right]

.10a – Fourth of July Parade, Anchorage, 1919. [two horses pull wagon with three individuals and decorated with banner and United States flag, dog drinks from a puddle, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .10b]

.10b – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, 1919, Anchorage [two horses pull wagon with three individuals and decorated with banner and United States flag, dog drinks from a puddle, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .10a]

.11a – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 1919, Anchorage, Alaska [two automobiles, one covered in foliage with several individuals inside, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .11b]

.11b – Fourth of July Parade, Anchorage, 1919 [two automobiles, one covered in foliage with several individuals inside, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .11a]

.12a – Shrine Float 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Anchorage, 1919 [float with at least five individuals and one individual standing on the ground, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .12b]

.12b – Shrine float. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 1919, Anchorage [float with at least five individuals and one individual standing on the ground, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk. Same as .12b]

- .13a – Picture taken on the bluff at about 3<sup>rd</sup> and I St. In Anchorage showing the railroad track a the lighter in Cook Inlet, 1919 [landscape view of Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) with a barge in the water and railroad tracks and structure in the foreground. Same as .13b]
- .13b – 1919 mud flats Anchorage taken from bluff at about 3<sup>rd</sup> and I Street showing the railroad tracks and the lighter in Cook Inlet 1919 [landscape view of Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) with a barge in the water and railroad tracks and structure in the foreground. Same as .13a]
- .14 – postcard, L.D. Ellexson, Knik, Alaska [dog team in harness with a structure covered in snow in the background]
- .15 – Mrs. Byrle Polly – standing about 1918 or 1919 Anchorage [dog team with two individuals one at the back of the sled, likely Byrle Polly, and one in the basket]
- .16 – Bob Romig as a duck hunter [one individual standing in front of a wood structure holding several birds in each hand]
- .17 – Anchorage, Alaska, April 1919. I had washed my shirt but could not iron it. A.W. Anderson, taken at about 3<sup>rd</sup> and I Street. [one individual, identified as Andy W. Anderson, sitting on a porch with a building behind]
- .18 – Sept. 1919 Capt. Nord [several individuals standing on the deck of a ship, September 1919]
- .19 – Tory and Jack Robards, Andy Anderson, and Byrle Polly's daughter, 1919. Aboard ship [four individuals posed on ship deck. Identified left to right: Tory Robarts, Jack Robarts, Andy W. Anderson, Byrle Polly]
- .20 – Mona Robards, her mother Tory, [unidentified], and Byrle Polly and daughter on ship at Anchorage, 1919 [seven individuals posed and facing the camera on ship deck. Left to right: Mona Robarts, Tory Robarts, [unidentified], Byrle Polly, and ? Polly]
- .21 – 1919. Red Jack Bartels. Red Hanson of Alaska Trans. knows his last name. Hanson worked for Magill in 1929, [19]30, [19]31. Red Jack married a native and has two grown sons at Tyonek. One is named Harry. Boat, "Sea Lion," built by Jack. [one individual posed in window of boat cabin]
- .22 – John Hedberg 1919. Beluga River [one individual, identified as John Hedberg, standing on porch with equipment and tents in the background]
- .23 – Lee Wise 1919. Theodore River [one individual standing behind at least six beluga whale carcasses with mud banks on either side]
- .24 – 1919, Beluga River, Alaska Commercial Bldg. Northern Comm. Co. [landscape view of boat in a river with Alaska Commercial buildings on the shoreline]
- .25 – Mr. Dittmer 1919 catch of Beluga. Theodore River [one individual identified as Dittmer sitting on beluga whale carcasses with mud in the background]
- .26 – Joe Magill, 1919 [one individual identified as Joe Magill standing on rope and nets with water in the background]

- .27 – A Mr. Carlson and two natives on barge with drums of Beluga oil, 1919 [one white individual identified as Carlson with two Indigenous individuals on barge with metal drums and shoreline behind them]
- .28 – 1919, Belugas taken at Theodore River [two individuals standing with beluga whale carcasses and mud on either side]
- .29 – Lee Wise, Theodore Creek, 1919 [one individual identified as Lee Wise standing on decking with tent behind]
- .30 – Beluga being hauled up at old Alaska Com'l Bldg. Beluga River, 1919 [three individuals standing next to a ramp beneath several structures with a beluga whale carcass and boats in the background]
- .31 – Carter's cabin on Lewis River after the Bears had their fun. Lee Wise with Mr. Carter. Carter was found dead on the beach at Tyonek. This picture taken in 1919 [two individuals identified as Lee Wise (left) and Carter (right) with supplies and boxes tossed in front of them and a log cabin behind]
- .32 – Beluga boat #1. Starting to set up camp on Theodore River. B60 [three individuals on shore with supplies and four individuals on boat]
- .33 – L.D. Ellexson and A.W. Anderson with baby beluga. Theodore River, 1919 [two individuals identified as L.D. Ellexson and Andy W. Anderson posed with a beluga whale carcass with water in the background]
- .34 – L.D. Ellexson and A.W. Anderson with baby beluga. Theodore River, 1919 [two individuals identified as L.D. Ellexson and Andy W. Anderson posed with a beluga whale carcass with water in the background. Similar to .33]
- .35 – Joe Magill [one individual identified as Joe Magill processing a beluga whale carcass in water]
- .36 – Theodore River 1919 [landscape view of river with a dog in the foreground]
- .37 – Theodore River 1919. L.D. Ellexson, A.W. Anderson, Red Jack Bartels [three individuals posed with two beluga whale carcasses on mud flats. Identified left to right: L.D. Ellexson, Andy W. Anderson, and Red Jack Bartels]
- .38 – Beluga River, 1919. This sourdough was going to try to get to Anchorage in this flat bottom boat. Hope he made it! [one individual standing in boat with a makeshift sail near shore with wood ramp in the foreground and another boat in the background]
- .39 – Lee Wise camp on old scow. Theodore River [one individual standing, possibly Lee Wise, and one individual sitting on scow on land with tent at the back]
- .40 – 1919, belugas, Theodore River at low tide [beluga whale carcasses on mud flats]
- .41 – Beluga River, 1919 [panoramic view of river with ice flows and boats pulled up on shore to the right]

.42 – Beluga River, 1919. Alaska Com'l Co's Bldgs. Headquarters for Joe Magill's fishing and beluga operation [panoramic view of shoreline from the water with Alaska Commercial Company buildings and boats on the shore]

.43 – [panoramic view of ship deck with water and snow covered mountains in the background, including a structure center left. Life preserver reads, "Grizzly, K.C.O."]

.44 – envelope [sketch on the outside of envelope with lettering, "First white man to become a sourdough in one hour."]

## **Folder 2**

### Negatives

.2ab – 3 men at Alaska Commercial Bldgs. on Beluga River 1919 [three individuals, identified as unidentified at left, John Hedberg at center, and Lee Wise at right, standing on a boardwalk with Alaska Commercial Buildings to the left and the Beluga River to the right]

.3 – 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, July 4, 1919. 2 copies. Alaska Railroad's float (same photo as B[19]65.4.38)(see back of photos for detailed info.) 1919 [four horses in harness pulling a railroad car decorated with United States flags. People watching the parade from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background. July 4, 1919]

.4 – A boat was used by Anderson and Wise to trap belugas at Three Mile Creek in 1919. The belugas would chase the salmon up the stream. Then the men would close the exit off and trap the beluga when the tide went out. [two individuals on a boat with ropes, nets, and barrels tied off to shore]

.5 – Early view of Anch. Along mudflats [view of Nuti (Knik Arm) and Dgheyay Leht (Ship Creek) with wood structures in the foreground, railroad tracks along the shoreline, and buildings and docks in the background]

.6ab – "Big Bertha" is driven through Anchorage during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade (detailed info on backs of photos)(2 copies) [four individuals in an automobile with a long canon-like decoration at the back with a sign that reads, "Big Bertha, Our Captured Trophy," Anchorage, July 4, 1919. A group of individuals watching from the sidewalk and windows of a building in the background]

.8 – Fashions were different. Here, a foursome poses on the deck of a ship leaving Anchorage for Seattle 47 years ago. The men, unidentified, are with Mrs. Byrle Polly, left, and Mona Robarts. The Robarts family operated a pool and dance hall next to the Empress Theater in Anchorage "early days." [four individuals in western dress stand on the deck of a ship with a lifeboat in the background. The two individuals at center are identified as Byrle Polly (wearing a sweater with a belt and coat) and Mona Robard (wearing a hat and coat)]

.9 – Fourth Ave., Anchorage 1910-1919 [street view of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Anchorage, with the Empress Theatre and C.W. Bolte Hardware to the right]

.10ab – Fourth of July Parade, Anchorage 1919. 2 copies. [two horses pull wagon with three individuals and decorated with banner and United States flag, dog drinks from a puddle, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk]

.11ab – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 1919, Anchorage, Alaska. 2 copies [two automobiles, one covered in foliage with several individuals inside, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk]

.12ab – Shrine Float 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade 1919 [Anchorage]. 2 copies [float with at least five individuals and one individual standing on the ground, and individuals watching from windows and boardwalk]

.13 – Picture taken on the bluff at about 3<sup>rd</sup> and I St. in Anchorage showing the railroad track and the lighter in Cook Inlet, 1919. 2 copies [landscape view of Tikahtnu (Cook Inlet) with a barge in the water and railroad tracks and structure in the foreground]

.25 – Mr Dittmer, 1919, with catch of belugas. Theodore River [one individual identified as Dittmer sitting on beluga whale carcasses with mud in the background]

.27 – [one white individual identified as Carlson with two Indigenous individuals on barge with metal drums and shoreline behind them]

.30 – Beluga being hauled up at old Alaska Commercial Building, Beluga River, 1919 [three individuals standing next to a ramp beneath several structures with a beluga whale carcass and boats in the background]

.33 – L.D. Ellexson and A.W. Anderson with baby beluga. Theodore River, 1919 [two individuals identified as L.D. Ellexson and Andy W. Anderson posed with a beluga whale carcass with water in the background]

.34 – L.D. Ellexson and A.W. Anderson with baby beluga. Theodore River, 1919 [two individuals identified as L.D. Ellexson and Andy W. Anderson posed with a beluga whale carcass with water in the background. Similar to .33]

.35 – Joe Magill butchering a beluga [one individual identified as Joe Magill processing a beluga whale carcass in water]

.37 – Theodore River, 1919. L.D. Ellexson, A.W. Anderson, Red Jack (Benton) Bartels he means [three individuals posed with two beluga whale carcasses on mud flats. Identified left to right: L.D. Ellexson, A.W. Anderson, and Red Jack Bartels]

.42 – Beluga River, 1919. Alaska Commercial Co.'s Buildings Headquarters for Joe Magill's fishing and beluga operations [panoramic view of shoreline from the water with Alaska Commercial Company buildings and boats on the shore]

Guide written: February 26, 2025