

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Ivy Turinsky, Archivist

**TITLE:** Levi–Sellin Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1969.022

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1915–1920

Extent: 41 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Alaska Engineering Commission (A.E.C.); Hunt, Phinney S.; Kaiser, Henry G.; Levi, R. F.; Logemann, W. E. (Logemann Photo); Sellin, Dale V.

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

The Alaska Engineering Commission (A.E.C.) was created in May 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson to implement the surveying of routes through the territory of Alaska. The A.E.C. purchased the Alaska Northern Railway, which in 1915 moved its headquarters along Dgheyay Kaq' (The Mouth of Ship Creek) near the townsite of Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Etnena. By 1917 the A.E.C. incorporated the Tanana Valley Railroad which had constructed 45 miles of southward line from Fairbanks.<sup>1</sup>

Photographer Phinney S. (P.S.) Hunt (April 24-1866–October 14, 1917) was born in Michigan and lived in Kalamazoo until age 18. He married Rose in 1887 and moved to California. In 1898, he moved to Suacit (Valdez), Alutiiq/Sugpiaq territory, Alaska and worked as a photographer there and in surrounding communities. In 1915 or 1916, he became the official photographer for the Alaskan Engineering Commission and moved to Dgheyaytnu

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/media/la4hd03g/b1979\\_002-alaska-railroad-collection.pdf](https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/media/la4hd03g/b1979_002-alaska-railroad-collection.pdf)

(Anchorage), Dena'ina Etnena.<sup>2</sup> He died suddenly in 1917 while working in Qutalleq (Seward), Alutiiq/Sugpiaq territory, Alaska.<sup>3</sup>

H. G. Kaiser was hired to replace Hunt in November 1917. According to the 1900 U. S. Census, he was born in Germany in August 1864 and emigrated in 1879. Kaiser likely arrived in Alaska between 1879 and 1898. The 1900 Census lists Kaiser's occupation as "miner," and his previous occupation as "photographer," suggesting that he may have traveled to Alaska to join in the Klondike Gold Rush. Kaiser took many photographs in Sitkasuaq (Nome), Iñupiaq territory. Photograph captions indicate that Kaiser worked for the A.E.C. until at least 1922.<sup>4</sup>

W. E. (William Ernest) Logemann (1885-1952) was an early Anchorage photographer.<sup>5</sup>

Nothing was known about other creators and donors at the time of processing.

#### Scope and Content Description:

The Levi–Sellin collection consists of 40 photographic prints (some attached to unbound scrapbook pages) and 1 negative of Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage), Dena'ina Etnena; Qutalleq (Seward), Alutiiq/Sugpiaq territory; and surrounding areas. Subjects include Fourth of July celebrations and the Alaska Railroad. Images from Fourth of July, 1920 show Co. B. of the 21st U.S. Inf., the Elks Float B.P.O.E, the Loyal Order of Moose float, the Start of the seven-mile Marathon race, and the Presbyterian Sunday school float. Photographs of the railroad include the Alaska Railroad in Dgheyaytnu in 1918, Engine No. 620 with an ARR Group, 1918-1920, and photos of flat cars and a caboose at the Alaskan Railroad yards in Dgheyaytnu. Dgheyaytnu images include 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E Street, the Anchorage Daily Times, the Post Office, Government Buildings, the Masonic Building, a Red Cross Benefit Ball Game, Lake Otis, and of the U.S. Government Auctioning Lots in Dgheyaytnu. There are also images of Tutl'uh (Turnagain Arm), Dena'ina Etnena.

Arrangement: Not applicable

#### **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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<sup>2</sup> <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv84439>

<sup>3</sup> <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv46679>

<sup>4</sup> <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv84439>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/media/24330/b2013\\_029\\_guide.pdf](https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/media/24330/b2013_029_guide.pdf)

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Preferred Citation: Levi–Sellin Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1969.022

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information:

Donated by Mrs. R. F. Levi and Dale V. Sellin September 29, 1969, to the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

Processing Note:

Museum accession number 1969.064.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

B1967.017 CIHS Brazil

B1967.019 CIHS Isaacs

B1972.088 Muller Collection

## **SUBJECTS**

Alaska Railroad

Alaska Engineering Commission

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923

Alutiiq/Sugpiaq

Baseball teams – Anchorage

Dena'ina Ełnena

Dgheyaytnu / Anchorage (Alaska)

Qutalleq / Seward (Alaska)

Tutl'uh / Turnagain Arm (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

## **B1/F1**

- .1 – Co. B. 21<sup>st</sup> U.S. Inf. On Parade Anchorage, Alaska, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1920. Logemann Photo. [back: Anchorage – 1920; Capt Lee is out of Picture having gone to [sic] far forward; Anchorage, 1920] [individuals in uniform standing in line, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Ełnena]
- .2 – [back: Anchorage – 1919; 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and E St. 1919.; Anchorage 1919] [pedestrians on street. Signs read, “Brown & Hawkins,” “Montana Pool Room,” “North Pole Bakery Coffee House,” “Drugs,” “Fairbanks,” “Meat,” “Empress Theatre.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Ełnena]
- .3 – [back: GAAB Graphics; 4<sup>th</sup> Ave 1919; Anchorage, 1919] [pedestrians on street. Signs read, “Eckmann’s,” “Pioneer Express; Food; Coal; Lu [...],” “Buncheonette Waffles,” “Hardware,”

“Mint Grill,” “That Man Logemann,” “Films,” “Kuppeni [...]”; Carrol & Co,” “Open Air [...].”  
 Looking west, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.4 – [back: Anchorage, 1919; E Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; Anchorage Daily Times] [Anchorage Daily Times building from street, signs read, “Anchorage Daily Times,” “Law Office [...],” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.5 – [back: Anchorage, 1919; Post office 1919] [individuals outside Anchorage Post Office, sign reads, “Anchorage Post Office.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.6 – Gov Buildings, Anchorage Alaska 1918-1919 [back: Alaska Railroad – Anchorage] [postcard (unwritten/unsent). Buildings across snowy field]

.7 - Gov Buildings, Anchorage Alaska 1918-1919 [back: Alaska Railroad – Anchorage; Anchorage 1918] [postcard (unwritten/unsent). Buildings across snowy field]

.8 – Broadway – Seward 2-SD Seward Drug Co., Seward Alaska [back: Seward; Seward] [postcard (unwritten/unsent). View towards water, pedestrians in street. Sign reads, “Bank.” Qutalleq, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq territory]

.9 – [back: Alaska Railroad – Equipment; probable date 1918-1920; Anchorage, Seward vicinity; ARR – misc] [postcard (unwritten/unsent). Snow pusher (per accession paperwork) in deep snow]

.10 – [back: Anchorage – 1919; July 4, 1919; Anchorage] [individual on horse leading marching band. Sign on building reads, “[...] Tailor.” Per previous finding aid, Masonic Bldg, Roberts Hall. Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.11 – [back: Anchorage – 1919; Anchorage - July 4, 1919] [uniformed individuals marching in parade. Sign on building reads, “[...] Tailor.” Per previous finding aid, Masonic Bldg, Roberts Hall, U.S. Army. Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.12 - [back: Anchorage, July 4, 1919] [uniformed individuals marching in parade. Sign on building reads, “[...] Tailor.” Per previous finding aid, Masonic Bldg. Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.13 – Sincerely Yours Dippy Duak [back: Anchorage - 1918] [scrapbook page, individual in hat and coat in the snow. Possibly Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.14 - [back: Anchorage - 1918] [scrapbook page, two individuals with horse and cart in the snow, third individual standing on porch. Alaska Railroad per previous finding aid. Possibly Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.15 - Com. Stores Dept. Group, 1918 [back: Anchorage - 1918] [three individuals on porch. Gem Stores Dept Group; 1918; Anchorage; Sh/be com. stores dept? per accession paperwork. Possibly Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.16 - [back: Anchorage - 1918] [individual standing on porch holding animal or baby. Possibly Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.17 – Anchorage Railroad group. [back: Alaska Railroad – Personnel; 1. Alice Calhoon, 2. Bill Lawing; ARR Anchorage Group; Probably date 1918-1920] [Alaska Railroad, eight individuals in front of train engine. Engine and cars read, “American Locomotive Company; 620; 1906.” and “Mail & Baggage.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.18 – [back: Alaska Railroad – Equipment; ARR Group; Probable date 1918-1920; Probably Anchorage; ARR. Anch] [Alaska Railroad, three individuals working on train engine. Engine reads, “American Locomotive Company; 620; 1906.” Probably Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

- .19 – [back: Alaska Railroad – Anchorage; ARR, Anchorage; Probable date 1918-1920] [engine and train cars, cars read, “U.S; Mail & Baggage; U.S. 1303; 1303” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .20 – [Alaska Railroad – Anchorage; Government Bldg – Anch 1918-1920] [buildings through trees, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .21 - Pres. Harding’s visit to Alaska R.R. at Anchorage [back: Alaska Railroad Equipment] [President Warren Gamaliel Harding’s visit. Individuals alongside train engine, train car loaded with supplies, group of individuals gathered nearby. Side of engine reads, “U.S.A.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .22 – Turnagain Arm; Turnigan [sic] Arm 1918-19; ARR Turnagain [scrapbook page, landscape view of snowy mountains across water. Alaska Railroad, Tutl'uh, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .23 – Turnagain Arm; Turnigan [sic] Arm 1918-19; ARR Turnagain [scrapbook page, railroad tracks along coast. Alaska Railroad, Tutl'uh, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .23a – Turnagain Arm; Turnigan [sic] Arm 1918-19; ARR Turnagain [scrapbook page, railroad tracks along coast, snowy mountains behind. Alaska Railroad, Tutl'uh, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .24 – Turnagain Arm; Turnigan [sic] Arm 1918-19; ARR Turnagain [scrapbook page, railroad tracks, buildings in snow. Alaska Railroad, Tutl'uh, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .25 – B.P.O.E. (Elks’) Float Anchorage, Alaska July 4<sup>th</sup> 1920. Logemann Photo [back: Anchorage 1920; Paterson VI; Same old gang to do any thing with. Yours truly last one in line] [parade following individuals on float, dog in foreground. Float reads, “BPOE; Grant Lodge Convention July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.” Sashes, one reading, “Brotherh[ood].” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .26 – A.E.C. G322. P.S. Hunt Trail and Gradeline on Turnagain Arm, looking north into Rainbow Valley – Alaska Railroad per accession paperwork [back: Alaska Railroad – Portage to Anchorage; Rainbow; ARR – Turnagain] [snowy mountain coastline, Tutl'uh, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .27 – [back: Alaska Railroad – Anchorage] [baseball team standing on and around flat cars and caboose, en route to game 1919-1920, per accession paperwork. Train cars read, “Seattle Car and Foundry Co. Builders.; 728; S.” Possibly Alaska Railroad yards, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena, per previous finding aid]
- .28 – Grand Lodge of Founders and Anchorage Lodge 1351 D.P.O Elks. Charter Members of Instituted March 30-18. G-864 A.E.C. [signature illegible] [back: Anchorage 1918] [group of individuals posing for photograph in front of building, signs read, “BPOE, “1351,” and “Anchorage.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .29 – Loyal Order of Moose Float, July 4, 1920 Anchorage, Alaska Logemann Photo. [back: Anchorage, 1920; First Prize] [parade following individuals on float shaped like airplane. Float reads, “L.O.O.M. 1534” and “Loyal Order of Moose.” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .30 – E. F. Bauer tried to put one over by beating it to Seattle and getting spliced. “Results.” – Thanks to the Anchorage Shriners, July. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1919. Logemann Photo [back: Emma I am told mine will be even worse So I guess it is up to us not to come back] [smiling individual handcuffed to post with whiskey and signs reading “\$500 for the kids,” “Agree to Pay All Expenses Signed E F Bauer,” “Just Married.” Likely Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]
- .31 – Start of Seven Mile Marathon Race, Anchorage, Alaska. July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1920. Logemann Photo [back; Anchorage – 1920; Anchorage 1920; Paterson VI; First – the man with arms folded; Second Evan soldiers are outside; Third Albert Morris; Starter Leo Edger Potter] [group of individuals, some in running clothes. Dog regarding group. Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.32 – [back: Otis Lake; Otis Lake 1919; Mr. Otis] [postcard (unwritten/unsent). Ten individuals and a dog outside wooden structure in winter. Lake Otis per accession paperwork.

Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.33 – U.S. Govt. Auctioning Lots at Anchorage, First Lot Sold for \$825.00 [back: Anchorage – 1915, Tent City; Anchorage – 1915, Tent City] [crowd of individuals at auction, tent reads, “Montana Pool Room.” Has negative. Similar to B1967.019.231, B1972.088.34, B1972.088.35;

Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.34 – Anchorage, Alaska July 4<sup>th</sup> 1920. Logemann Photo. [back: Anchorage – 1920; Second Prize; Paterson VI; Anchorage 1920] [children on float with U.S. flags, float reads, “Presbyterian Sunday School; Washington said [...].” Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.35 – Red Cross Benefit Ball Game (May 25<sup>th</sup>.) Masons vs Elks The Masons Team A.E.C. G. 870 H.G.K. [back: Baseball teams – Anchorage.] [Alaska Engineering Commission (A.E.C.). Henry G. Kaiser, photographer. Crowd in stands, team posing. 1918 per accession paperwork.

Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.36 – A.E.C. G-871 - Red Cross Benefit Ball Game (May 25<sup>th</sup>.) Masons vs Elks The “Elks” Team H.G.K. [Alaska Engineering Commission (A.E.C.). Henry G. Kaiser, photographer. Crowd in stands, team posing. Anchorage 1918 per accession paperwork. Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.37 – [back: Alask Railroad – Portage to Anchorage / Girdwood] [railroad tracks along coast, around Tutl'uh (Turnagain Arm) per accession paperwork. Dena'ina Etnena]

.38 – [back: Photo of Otis Lake Cabin; Otis Lake] [individuals and structure at top of snowy slope. Similar to B1969.022.39. Likely Lake Otis, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

.39 – [back: Otis, Lake; Photo of Otis Lake Cabin] [similar to B1969.022.38. Likely Lake Otis, Dgheyaytnu, Dena'ina Etnena]

Guide written: August 28, 2003

Guide updated: June 30, 2026