

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center  
Bob and Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center  
625 C Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-929-9235  
Fax: 907-929-9233  
Email: resourcecenter@anchagemuseum.org

Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

**TITLE:** Duane Carson Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2012.014

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: circa 1947-2002 (bulk 1974-1978)

Extent: 6.2 linear feet; 9 boxes

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Duane Carson

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Duane Eldon Carson was born in Mission Hill, South Dakota, on December 27, 1931. He was the fourth of eight children to his parents, Frank Seburne and Hazel Amelia Carson. In 1933 Frank and Hazel packed up their Model A and left the Dust Bowl behind, heading West. They didn't stop until they reached the coast of Washington. They settled in Aberdeen, Washington, where Duane grew up. He graduated from Weatherwax High School in 1950 where he was on the track and field team.

Duane joined the Air Force in February of 1951, trained in Texas, Oklahoma, California and Illinois before being stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada. While in Las Vegas he met Judith Elise Dickens of Boulder City. They were married on June 18, 1954 in Boulder City. Duane was discharged on February 22, 1955, and he and Judy moved back to Aberdeen where Duane attended Grays Harbor College. On November 8, 1956, they welcomed a daughter, Catherine Anne. After receiving his associate's degree in science in 1957 he moved his family to Pullman where he earned his bachelor's degree in engineering in 1960 from Washington State University.

After college the family moved to the Seattle area where Duane worked for Boeing Aircraft. A son, Dean Evan, was born on August 8, 1960 and a second son, Paul Andrew, was born on

November 3, 1962. In early 1963, Boeing transferred him to Layton, Utah. After a few months in Utah, Duane accepted a position with the Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage, Alaska. In December 1963, Duane and his family flew to Anchorage. Duane moved the family into a rented house on E 17th Ave in Anchorage.

After the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, the Army Corps of Engineers assigned Duane the task of surveying the damaged buildings throughout Southern Alaska, determining which buildings could be salvaged and which ones were total losses. Only a couple of months after the earthquake the family moved to Saint Elias Drive in the Turnagain subdivision. During that time Duane bought a 1951 Super Cub that he flew until the year before his death. Flying became not just his favorite past time but the means for feeding his family. Every year Duane flew into the bush to hunt game such as moose, caribou, bear, and Dall sheep.

In 1967 the Chena River flooded Fairbanks and once again Duane was sent in to survey the damage. This natural disaster was more than just a tour behind the lines; Duane's brother, Eugene, and his family of five lived literally across the street from the river. They were flooded out and went to stay with Duane's family until it was safe to go back.

In 1969 Duane and Judy bought their first house on E 8th Avenue.

In 1975 Duane transferred to the Bureau of Land Management and was then on loan to the Alaska Pipeline Office for the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline. During pipeline construction he was the Authorized Officer's Field Representative for Section One, the first 155 miles from Valdez, North. He had control of federal lands and pipeline integrity (construction). He also worked on the North Slope of Alaska for the building Section Six of the Haul Road. After construction of the pipeline he was the startup engineer and had a crew of five that followed the fill pig from pump station one to the Valdez terminal. Duane wrote a journal chronicling the start up or "fill" of the Pipeline beginning Sunday, June 19, 1977.

After Duane's retirement from the Bureau of Land Management he continued to work as a consulting engineer in the oil and gas industry.

In 1979 Duane and Judy purchased their last house in College Gate on Bryn Mawr Court where they lived for the rest of their lives. Judy passed away on March 23, 2011 at the age of 74. At sunrise on April 10, 2012, Duane passed over to be with his beloved Judy.

[Excerpted from a biography written by Catherine Carson-Foster, September 2012]

#### Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 3753 photographs (including prints, 35mm strip negatives, and 35mm slides), four diaries, awards and certificates, military records, and other ephemera pertaining to Duane Carson's life in Alaska. The bulk of the collection documents Carson's work on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from 1974-1978. Also included are photographs of the 1967 Chena Flood in Fairbanks and industrial debris in the Aleutian Islands in the 1980s.

Arrangement: Arranged by format: 1. Textual materials. 2. Prints. 3. Negatives. 4. Slides. 5. Diaries.

## **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. Light box may be used for negative and slide viewing.

### 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:

Duane Carson Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2012.014

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Catherine Foster in 2012. Addendum received in May 2013, including licenses, certificates, resumes, and seven photographs. Second addendum received in October 2013 and January 2014, including yearbooks, diploma, and funeral program. Third addendum (1972 Alaska Board of Engineers and Architects Examiners Certificate of Registration) received July 2014.

### Processing Notes

Negatives found in photo processing envelopes did not always match enclosed prints. Some envelopes contained parts of more than a single roll of film. Original order was retained and notes made when discrepancies were noticed. Slides sorted into rolls by date and roll code when possible.

### Separated Materials

Plumb bob donated with archival materials transferred to Collections.

### Notes

Rolls of prints of TAPS construction were labeled by Carson with unique numbers. Images have been sorted by those numbers and placed in sequence in Boxes 2-4. No index correlating numbers with locations or dates was found within the collection, and location information was not otherwise included on the majority of the images. As locations are identified, this guide will be updated.

## RELATED MATERIALS

Steve McCutcheon Collection, TAPS Series, B1990.014.3

## SUBJECTS

Carson, Duane E., 1931-2012  
Susitna Hydroelectric Project  
Petroleum pipelines—Alaska  
Petroleum industry and trade—Alaska  
Construction and demolition debris--Alaska--Aleutian Islands  
Floods--Alaska--Fairbanks  
Floods--Alaska--Chena River  
Earthquakes--Alaska--Anchorage  
Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964  
Airplanes—Alaska  
Aircraft accidents—Alaska  
Physical geography--Alaska  
Animals—Alaska  
Plants--Alaska  
Trans-Alaska Pipeline (Alaska)  
Dalton Highway (Alaska)  
Fox Islands (Alaska)  
Anchorage (Alaska)

## Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Textual materials

### B1

**F1:** Biography by Catherine Foster, 2012, and funeral program, 2012

**F2:** Weatherwax High School graduation, 1950

**F3:** Grays Harbor College graduation, 1957

**F4:** Certificates and awards, military records, 1947-1960

**F5:** Washington State University diploma, 1960

**F6:** Certificates and awards, military records, resumes, ephemera, 1963-2002

Yearbooks:

*Quinault*, Weatherwax High School, 1948, 1949, 1950

Nellis Air Force Base, 1953

*Nautilus*, Grays Harbor College, 1956, 1957

*Chinook*, Washington State College-Pullman, 1958, 1959, 1960

Series 2: Print photographs

**F7:** Prints of digital photographs scanned by Catherine Foster. Originals not received. **For research use only.**

**F8:** Original family photographs:

- .1 – Earthquake damage, Anchorage, Alaska 1964
  - .2 – Carson family taken March 30, 1941: Delores, Virgil, Frank, Eugene, Hazel, Laverla, Duane, Glen
  - .3 – Duane Carson, 1950
  - .4 – [Duane Carson receiving U.S. Army Engineer District Alaska Incentive Award, circa 1965? Cf. 3716, .3717]
  - .5 – Duane E. Carson, a structural engineer in the Alaska District Design Branch, is shown receiving his commendation and quality salary increase from Deputy District Engineer, Lt. Col. John O. Buchanan.
  - .6 – Turnagain Arm, Ak.
  - .7 – Ninilchik, Ak. [beach scene]
  - .8 - Ninilchik, Ak. [beach scene]
  - .9 – Homer, Ak. [view over Cook Inlet to Chigmit Mountains]
- 2013 Addendum
- .3716-.3717 – [Duane Carson receiving U.S. Army Engineer District Alaska Incentive Award, circa 1965? Cf. .4]
  - .3718 – [radar installation, possibly D.E.W. Line site, with fireweed in foreground]
  - .3719-.3721 – [airport control tower, possibly Shemya Eareckson Air Force Base?]
  - .3722 – [jackknifed truck, probably at construction site near tower shown in .3719-.3721]

## **B2**

- .10-.444: TAPS construction photographs, sets 7072-9112
  - 7072 February 14-16, 1974
  - 7085 includes Brooks Range and Yukon River Flats
  - 8005 North Slope January 1974
  - 9004 includes Sagavanirktok River, Sagwon Bluffs, Happy Valley Camp, M.S. 122-3, 124-2, 125-1, 125-4
  - 9067 includes Arctic Ocean
  - 9092 includes Umiat, Happy Valley Camp, Toolik Camp
  - 9111 includes Tsina River

## **B3**

- .445-.885: TAPS construction photographs, sets 9112-9728
  - 9167a includes North Slope
  - 9458 includes Glennallen
  - 9663: test burial AS13

## **B4**

- .886-.1375: TAPS construction photographs, sets 9937-10811
  - 9987 includes Glennallen, Sagavanirktok River animal crossing, Gulkana River access road, Tiekel River, September 1975
  - 10052 includes Glennallen, Gulkana River aircraft crash, 26-APL-2, A.S. 7, A.S. 14, A.S. 18, A.S. 21, Pump Station 11, Tazlina River, Tsina River, October 1975
  - 10053 includes Thompson Pass, Brown Creek, Tsina River, Pump Station 12, A.S. 9, A.S. 14, A.S. 15, A.S. 18, M.S. 13-3.1, October 1975
  - 10146 includes Glennallen

- 10166 includes Glennallen
- 10192 includes Pump Station 12
- 10230: Low River by Norgaard

## **B5**

- .1376-.1904: TAPS construction photographs, sets 10837-11279, other engineering projects
- 11103: [Pump Station 8 explosion and fire, July 1977]
- 11234: [Susitna Project, Watana Dam site]

## **B6**

- .1905-.2684: TAPS construction unnumbered sets, other engineering projects, Aleutian debris photographs
- .1933 – Umiat, Alaska, July 13, 1974
- .1940-.1963: Erskine Point – Bill
- .1978-.1995: Unalga Island, Erskine Point - Gary
- .1996-.2017: Unalga Island, Broad Bay, Eider Point – Duane
- .2018-.2036: Unalga Island, Broad Bay, Eider Point – Gary
- .2037-.2064: Eider Point and Standard Oil tanks – Duane
- .2065-.2084: Standard Oil and Dutch Harbor general – Gary
- .2085-.2134: Eider Point (Lower) – Dean
- .2135-.2158: Eider Point (Upper) – Bill
- .2159-.2184: Eider Point (Upper) – Gary
- .2185-.2241: Eider Point, Unalga Island – Bill
- .2241-.2262: Eider Point, Cape Wislow and aerials – Dean
- .2263-.2288: Cape Wislow – Dean
- .2289-.2311: Flight to Cape Wislow & Eider Point – Bill
- .2312-.2336: Cape Wislow – Bill
- .2337-.2360: First day, Capt. [Captains?] Bay/Crowley, Constantine/New area – Bill
- .2361-.2385: First day, Constantine Point, Erskine Point – Gary
- .2386-.2410: Constantine Bay, Erskine Point, Unalga Island – Dean
- .2411-.2424: Constantine Point, Crowley dock – Dean
- .2425-.2438: Unalga Island, Erskine Point, Crowley dock – Duane
- .2439-.2458: Akutan, Dutch Harbor (city), Unalga, Ugadaga from air – Duane
- .2459-.2481: Akutan & aerials – Bill
- .2500-.2514: Akutan, Ugadaga Bay – Gary
- .2515-.2534: Ugadaga Bay, President's Line dock – Bill
- .2535-.2561: Tsunami day, Akutan – Gary
- .2562-.2574: [Ugadaga Bay, Unalga Island]
- .2575-.2613: [Dutch Harbor, 1987]
- .2614-.2646: [Whittier? 1971]
- .2647-.2673: Ocean Tech 10/10/88
- .2674-.2684: [NW Dolphin Pier 5]

Series 3: Negatives

## **B7**

- .1905-.2692

Note: most negatives have corresponding prints with duplicate numbering

Series 4: Slides

**B8**

B1: .2693-.2890 includes sled dog racing, 1964 earthquake, McCarthy

B2: .2891-.3095 includes sled dog racing and Denali National Park, 1965; Aleutian Islands, Cordova, radar site, Alaska Highway, Unalakleet, 1966; Nome, 1967

B3: .3096-.3297 includes sled dog racing, radar site, Chena flood, Whittier, Cook Inlet, 1967; bowling alley construction, snow machines, Whittier, Independence Mine, Aleutian Islands, 1969; airplanes, cabins, 1970; scenery, 1971; Attu, 1972

B4: .3298-.3500 includes Corps of Engineers, 1972; scenery, 1973; aircraft accidents, 1974; Savoonga, Unalakleet, Alaska Highway, totems, no date; TAPS construction with Carson numbering, sets 3005-11234; TAPS construction unnumbered

B5: .3501-.3697 includes TAPS construction unnumbered and undated

B6: .3698-.3715 includes TAPS construction unnumbered and undated

[.3716-.3722: 2013 Addendum photos included in B1]

Series 5: Diaries

**B9**

Record, January 2, 1974-October 2, 1974

Laid in: manuscript notes, blank check from Deadhorse, Alaska, Alaska National Bank of the North

Record, June 10, 1974-May 21, 1975

Laid in: Manuscript correspondence. Bob Zorich to Duane Carson, 10/25/74, re trees down in Little Tonsina crossing

Record, May 27, 1975-June 15, 1977

Laid in: business card of Frank Humphreys, Trans-Northern Aviation; Pipeline staff decal; Temporary telephone directory, May 6, 1974; manuscript notes

[Diary], June 19, 1977-June 30, 1978

Laid in: Carson ID badge, U.S.D.I./A.P.O.; APO telephone directory revised 3/2/79; Division of Pipeline telephone directory; APO/MRI[?] Start-Up Team 6/10/77; copy of City of Anchorage Telephone Utility long-distance telephone credit card, 1974

Guide updated: July 11, 2014