

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: James M. Dinges Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2014.025

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1979 – 1993

Extent: 160 items; 0.2 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English

Name of Creator: James “Mike” Dinges

Administrative/Biographical History

James “Mike” Dinges was born in Colorado in 1958, to James “Jim” Dinges and Sue Dinges. He enlisted in the United States Air Force right after graduating high school in the summer of 1976. After basic, he studied as a weather observer, and was stationed in Langley SFB, in Hampton Virginia, before being transferred to Galena Air Force Station in December of 1978. After his discharge, returned to Alaska as an independent contractor to work on the Long Range Radar Sites (LRRS). He was first assigned to Cape Newenham, continuing his work as a weather observer. He worked at other sites as well, including Sparrevohn, Tin City, Cape Romanzof, Indian Mountain, and Barter Island.

While working on the sites, Michael took time off and earned two undergraduate degrees in History and Sociology from the University of Washington. He graduated with honors, and then returned to the sites to continue making a living. At Barter Island, he met Patricia Boyer, whom he subsequently married in 1994 and they had two children, Samuel and Benjamin. He retired from work on the sites to pursue a law degree at University of Oregon, Eugene Campus. Returning to Alaska, Michael obtained a position working for NEA, and has been doing so from 2000 to the present, putting his experience in rural Alaska to great use working with education faculty in the villages.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 93 personally produced 35 mm slides, as well as 62 color prints. Additionally, an Alaska Air Command Installations and Data book containing locations, costs, and statistical information on all of the LRRS sites is included, along with a TV guide and two base newspapers from Galena in 1979. The images document Michael's time on the sites, with focus on images of the sites themselves and remnants of the White Alice installations equipment.

Arrangement: Collection is arranged by format and location.

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 to view transparencies.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

James M. Dinges Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2014.025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to the Museum by James Dinges in 2014.

RELATED MATERIALS

Cecile K. Richter Collection, B2001.034

Radar Station Album, B2006.005

William Jennings Bryan Swank Collection, B2012.006

SUBJECTS

Dinges, James Michael, 1958 –

United States. Air Force

Radar defense networks - Alaska

White Alice Communications Systems

Campion Air Force Station (Alaska)
Sparrevohn Air Force Station (Alaska)
Indian Mountain Air Force Station (Alaska)
Tin City Air Force Station (Alaska)
Cape Romanzof Air Force Station (Alaska)
Cape Newenham Air Force Station (Alaska)
Barter Island (Alaska)
Galena (Alaska)

Detailed Description of Collection:

F1: Slides

- .1 – Galena 1979 [F-4s scrambling from the combat alert cells]
- .1a – [Galena 1979, A26 and Ag plane, which were used to de-ice the river with sand]
- .2 – Galena 1979 [Santa Claus visits]
- .3 – Campion AC&W 1978 [AC&W site 7 miles upriver from Galena]
- .4 – Campion AC&W 1979 [AC&W site 7 miles upriver from Galena]
- .5 – Galena 1979 [F4 on the runway]
- .6 – Galena 1979 [Birchwood hanger and weather station]
- .7 – Galena 1979 [Teletype technician working on a teletype machine at Galena weather station]
- .8 – Galena AFS 1979
- .9 – Galena AFS 1979
- .10 – T-33 Galena AFS 1979
- .11 – Argasy Galena AFS 1979
- .12 – T-33's Galena AFS 1979
- .13 – F4's Galena AFS 1979
- .14 – Argasy at Galena AFS 1979
- .15 – Argasy at Galena AFS 1979
- .16 – SRA Greg Hoffman Galena 1979
- .17 – Galena AFS 1979 SRA Hoffman [and] SRA Ice
- .18 – Birchwood hanger, Galena AFS 1979
- .19 – C-130 and Chinook, Galena AFS 1979
- .20 – C-133 Galena AFS 1979
- .21 – Chinook and C-12, Galena AFS 1979
- .22 – UH-1s at Galena AFS 1979
- .23 – Chinook Helo, Galena AFS 1979
- .24 – Chinook Helo, Galena AFS 1979
- .25 – Chinook Helos, Galena AFS 1979
- .26 – Chinook Helos, Galena AFS 1979
- .27 – UH-1 Helo, Galena AFS 1979
- .28 – F4 taking off, Galena 1979
- .29 – [1981 Tin City, Helicopter unloading supplies]

- .30 – [1984 Tin City, Track Master Vehicle]
- .31 – [1981 Tin City, Aerial view of LRRS site]
- .32 – [1981 Tin City, Aircraft unloading supplies with people]
- .33 – Tin City 1981 [panoramic shot of site w/caribou]
- .34 – Tin City 1982
- .35 – Tin City 1982 [Tine mine namesake of site and White Alice Installations]
- .36 – [Tin City 1981, NDB Tower with White Alice Installations]
- .37 – [Tin City, 1981, Supplies from Helicopter unload]
- .38 – Tin City 1981 [Helicopter flying over top camp radar installations]
- .39 – Tin City 1982 [Airplane in the snow]
- .40 – Tin City 1981 [Plane and weather station]
- .41 – Tin City 1982, NAC DC6
- .42 – Tin City 1982 [White Alice radar domes on the mountaintop]
- .43 – Tin City 1982 [White Alice at Tin City]
- .44 – [1981 Cape Newenham, C130 landing with White Alice in the background]
- .45 – [1981 Cape Newenham, main site]
- .46 – [1981 Cape Newenham, C-130 on the runway]
- .47 – [1981 Cape Newenham, runway and site]
- .48 – [1981 Cape Newenham, view of runway]
- .49 – [1981 Cape Newenham, main site]
- .50 – [1981 Cape Newenham, beached wreckage of army landing barge]
- .51 – [1981 Cape Newenham, beached wreckage of army landing barge]
- .52 – [1981 Cape Newenham, beached wreckage of army landing barge]
- .53 – [1981 Cape Newenham, beached wreckage of army landing barge]
- .54 – [1981 Cape Newenham, fog over the runway]
- .55 – [1981 Cape Newenham, fog over the runway]
- .56 – [1981 Cape Newenham, main site]
- .57 – [1981 Cape Newenham – Interior of weather station]
- .58 – [1981 Cape Newenham – Interior of weather station]
- .59 – [1981 Cape Newenham, Mike Ice demonstrating his lightsaber skills at the weather station]
- .60 – [1981 Cape Newenham, snowman with a weather balloon]
- .61 – [1981 Cape Newenham, snowman with a weather balloon]
- .62 – [1981 Cape Newenham, weather station door]
- .63 – [1981 Cape Newenham, ALASCOM weather station]
- .64 – [1981 Cape Newenham, warning sign]
- .65 – [1981 Cape Newenham, station chapel]
- .66 – [1981 Cape Newenham, main site]
- .67 – [1981 Cape Newenham, December at top camp]
- .68 – [1981 Cape Newenham, December at top camp]
- .69 – [1981 Cape Newenham, tram car saddle towers]
- .70 – [1981 Cape Newenham, upper tram dock]
- .71 – [1981 Cape Newenham, tram car at upper tram dock]
- .72 – [1981 Cape Newenham, inside the tram car]

- .73 – [1981 Cape Newenham, hoarfrost encrusted tram towers]
- .74 – [1981 Cape Newenham, lower tram shed]
- .75 – [1981 Cape Newenham, hoarfrost encrusted tram towers]
- .76 – [1981 Cape Newenham, tram lines and main site]
- .77 – [1981 Cape Newenham, lower tram dock]
- .78 – [1981 Cape Newenham, lower tram dock]
- .79 – [1980 Cape Newenham, radome with James Dinges in foreground (December)]
- .80 – [1980 Cape Newenham, radome with Mike Ice in the foreground (December)]
- .81 – [1980 Cape Newenham, radome in December]
- .82 – [1980 Cape Newenham, cleaning wind bird at top camp (December)]
- .83 – [1980 Cape Newenham, shot of top camp with tram on right (December)]
- .84 – [1980 Cape Newenham, main site and tram, taken from White Alice site (December)]
- .85 – [1980 Cape Newenham, White Alice with Mike Ice in foreground (December)]
- .86 – [1980 Cape Newenham, White Alice (December)]
- .87 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984
- .88 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984
- .89 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984
- .90 – Weather Station, Indian Mountain LRRS 1984
- .91 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984
- .92 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984

F2: Prints

- .93 – Galena AFS Keres C-5 1994
- .94 – [Postcard from Galena]
- .95 – Cape Romanzof LRRS, Warehouse and tank farm 1984
- .96 – Cape Romanzof LRRS, Warehouse and tank farm 1984
- .97 – Cape Romanzof LRRS 1984 Instrument shelter at weather station
- .98 – Cape Romanzof LRRS May 1984, Tank farm on the beach
- .99 – Cape Romanzof LRRS May 1984, Weather station and SeaAir twin otter
- .100 – Sparrevohn LRRS 1984, Looking down runway
- .101 – Sparrevohn LRRS 1984, Weather station
- .102 – Sparrevohn LRRS 1984, Weather station and NDB [Non-Directional Beacon] tower
- .103 – Sparrevohn LRRS 1984, Old site and new domes
- .104 – Cape Newenham LRRS/AC&W 1980, Main site, tram shed, and top camp
- .105 – Cape Newenham LRRS/AC&W 1980, Main site
- .106 – Cape Newenham LRRS/AC&W 1980, Looking down runway (bottom of runway 201' lower than top)
- .107 – Cape Newenham LRRS/AC&W, Top camp
- .108 – Cape Newenham AC&W/LRRS 1980, Weather station and earth station
- .109 – Cape Newenham AC&W/LRRS 1980, Main site, tram shed looking south-southwest
- .110 – Cape Newenham AC&W/LRRS, Weather station and ALASCOM earth station 1980
- .111 – Barter Island LRRS 1992 [Patricia Boyer dipping oil tanks]

- .112 – Barter Island LRRS 1993 [Left to right: Patricia Boyer, James Dinges, English Grad Student, and Steve Gordon]
- .113 – Barter Island LRRS [Playing crochet, left to right: James Dinges, English Grad Student, Steve Gordon]
- .114 – Barter Island LRRS 1993 [James Dinges and Patricia Boyer]
- .115 – Barter Island LRRS 1992/93, USAF C-130
- .116 – Barter Island LRRS 1992/93, USAF C-130 load/off load
- .117 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, Weather station
- .118 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, Mark Air L100 taking off
- .119 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, Mark Air L100 departing
- .120 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, C-82(?) landing
- .121 – Indian Mountain LRRs 1984, Old site from weather station, Note: vertical red lines are fire cut out areas
- .122 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, New domes from weather station, main site
- .123 – Indian Mountain LRRS 1984, Old site, new dome to right, main site
- .124 – Tin City LRRs 1981, Inside weather station
- .125 – Tin City LRRs 1982, White Alice site
- .126 – Tin City LRRS 1982, White Alice site
- .127 – Tin City LRRS 1982, White Alice site
- .128 – Tin City LRRS 1982, Weather station and NDB [Non-Directional Beacon] Tower
- .129 – Tin City LRRs 1982
- .130a – Tin City LRRS 1982 A. [part 1 of a 2 photo panoramic of Tin City]
- .130b – Tin City LRRS 1982 B. [Part 2 of a 2 photo panoramic of Tin City]
- .131 – Tin City LRRS 1984/85, Main site, incinerator shed (blue), and track masters
- .132 – Tin City LRRS 1982, Main site looking south
- .133 – Tin City LRRS 1982, USAF C-130 load/off-load
- .134 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Tram shed, main site
- .135 – Tin City LRRS 1984/85, Mark Air L100 loading
- .136 – Tin City LRRS 1981
- .137 – Tin City LRRS 1981, Main site
- .138 – Tin City LRRS, Dick Lee's Trading Post (buildings from old radar site) with North Star III BIA resupply ship
- .139 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Remodel
- .140 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Remodel
- .141 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Remodel
- .142 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Old theatre/library area after remodel
- .143 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Old dining/kitchen
- .144 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Remodeled kitchen
- .145 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Remodeled dining hall
- .146 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Remodeled dining hall
- .147 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Remodeled dining hall
- .148 – Tin City LRRS 1985/86, Remodeled dining hall
- .149 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Mark Air L100 unloading pallets
- .150 – Tin City LRRS 1985, USAF C-130 taking off south

- .151 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Clearing snow off of the main site roof
- .152 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Radar dome, Mike Ice station chief
- .153 – Tin City LRRS 1985, Loading Mark Air L-100
- .154 – Tin City 1982, Tram towers

F3: Textual materials

- Tel-Events (Program Week – 26th February – 4th March 1979)
- The Yukon River Rag Volume VI, 19 October 1979
- The Yukon River Rag Volume VII, 16 November, 1979
- *Alaskan Air Command Installation Plans & Data*
Book containing location, cost of construction, and other statistical information about all of the radar sites

Guide completed: August 6, 2014