

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@anchoragemuseum.org

Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

TITLE: Joseph G. Rich Alaska Highway Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2015.003

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1942-1988 (bulk 1942-1943)

Extent: 14 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Joseph G. Rich

Administrative/Biographical History:

Joseph G. Rich served as a firefighter with the United States Army during construction of the Alaska Highway. He also served with the 324th Engineers during the Aleutian Campaign.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 9 black-and-white photographs and published ephemera pertaining to the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942-1943. Eight of the photographs document fire stations, fire department personnel, and fires fought by Rich in Alaska and Canada. One image is of a military sternwheeler on the Peace River. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by format

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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Preferred Citation:

Joseph G. Rich Alaska Highway Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2015.003

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Rich in September 1988. Transferred from Collections to archives in January 2015.

SUBJECTS

United States. Army—Firemen

Fire departments—Alaska

Fire engines

Fire fighters—Alaska

Alaska Highway

Fairbanks (Alaska)

Seward (Alaska)

Valdez (Alaska)

Whitehorse (Yukon)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Photographs

.1 – Fire station. Valdez, fire station, U.S. Army, 1942 [U.S. Fire Dept. truck parked outside Fire Department building]

.2 – Fire station, Fairbanks, U.S. Army Fire Fighters. Our fire house, HQ #1. Fairbanks HQ Co. 324 [exterior of Fire Department building]

.3 – Alaska Tire Warehouse. We lost it. Fairbanks 1943, U.S. Fire Fighters Co. B. [men using hoses to battle fire in multi-story structure]

.4 – There it goes. A warehouse, Alaska military highway, U.S. Army Fire Fighters. Whitehorse, Yukon Terr., 1943 [men standing near fire engines parked at scene of structure fire]

.5 – 1600 gals of gas. It was hell. U.S. Army Fire Fighters, Seward. 1600 gals of gas, 1 A.M. on the roof, fire 1943. We lost it. We sure had hell here [men using hoses to fight structure fire, man on ladder at left identified as “Joe”]

.6 – Fire Dept. band. U.S. Army Fire Dept. Band, 1942, Fairbanks [military marching band on parade grounds]

.7 – A dead soldier. Fire fighter killed on highway, Fairbanks, 1943 [soldiers marching in formation on parade ground, hangars in background, one soldier identified as “Joe”]

.8 – Peace River, Fort St. John, U.S. Engineers boat, Alaska 1943 [paddle steamer at dock, Peace River Bridge in background]

Ephemera

- Richardson, Harold W. (Harold Ward). *Alcan: America's glory road*. Excerpts republished from *Engineering news-record*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1942-1943.
- Wilkinson, Eugene. “Dawson Creek Catastrophe, Saturday February 13th, 1943.” Poem. With manuscript note: “We had hell here. 6 P.M. at mess time.” Typescript note on verso: “We received call at 5:30 P.M. We sound the call for all fire fighters to return to H.Q. as the siren gave out the first call. We rolled into Dawson with full company of men. We requested a may day for all U.S. military to response. Asst. Chief Joe Rich with the help of the Post Headquarters Command and doctors of the U.S. Army Post did a fine job.”
- Menzies, Don. *The Alaska Highway: a saga of the north*. [Edmonton, Alberta], [S. Douglas], [c1943]. Dedication page signed by numerous personnel. Annotated by Rich. Extra-illustrated with:
 - o .9 – Fort Nelson. U.S. Army Post, Fort Nelson, Alaska, 1943 [exterior of large building]
- “Arctic oil: first view of Army's \$134,000 Canol project may be last as Congress ponders abandoning it.” Clipping from *Life*, 15(26), December 27, 1943, p. 21
- Mooney, Joseph Jr. “Want a parade? Call for Rich.” Clipping from newspaper *Long Island* [?], no date
- “Dukakis on the wrong side of symbol.” United States Committee for Patriotism, no date. 1988?

Guide written: May 13, 2015