

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

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**TITLE:** Col. John H. Sullivan 1964 Earthquake Slides

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2015.013

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1964

Extent: 101 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): John H. Sullivan

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Col. John H. Sullivan served in Alaska for three months as part of the military's response to the devastating 1964 Alaska Earthquake. His daughter writes:

“At the time of the Good Friday earthquake my father was a Captain in the United States Army Corps of Engineers; he was working on a dam building project near Tulsa, OK as a part of the Corps' civil works programs. ...[B]efore the establishment of FEMA, the Corps of Engineers (CE), particularly the Directorate of Civil Works, was one of the primary emergency responders for large natural disasters. Immediately after the Good Friday quake, my father was informed that he would be sent to Alaska as a part of an emergency response team. He arrived in Anchorage via commercial airliner with several other Engineer officers on the Sunday following the quake – Easter Sunday. The officers were quickly moved on to various locations in the large area affected by the quake and resulting tsunamis. My father was sent to Seward to help establish a CE office there and to assist in the administration of contracts for debris removal & recovery/reconstruction operations. He also recalls spending some of his time in Seward as a part of a “technical” team examining the various causes of the unique structural failures that resulted from the quake and tsunami; that team included representatives from the primary recovery contractor, Shannon & Wilson Inc, as well as Richard Lemke, the USGS earthquake

recovery geologist sent to Seward (one of my father's slide images features Mr. Lemke in the Seward railway yards – they apparently spent a lot of time together).

When my father initially arrived in Anchorage, he and the other CE officers received some items to take with them to their next location; one of those items was a camera with film. The officers were instructed to take pictures of the damage from the quake and tsunamis in their respective regions and as they traveled about in other areas. The film was to be sent back to the Alaska District CE offices periodically. My father recalls taking lots of photos and remembers sending several rolls of film on to the District offices for processing. He believes that some of the slides that he has in his collection (the ones without imprinted processing dates) are duplicates of those that he or others in the Seward office sent to the District office. There are definite similarities between some CE images in the Alaska's Digital Archives and a few of my father's slides.

It seems my father mistakenly kept two rolls of film which he discovered after he had returned to the Lower 48 (during the second week of July 1964). Those slides are imprinted with development dates of Jul 64 and Aug 64. The last few images in the slide collection feature shots of the July 4, 1964 parade in Seward."

#### Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 101 color 35mm slides documenting the aftermath of the 1964 Alaska Earthquake. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically

### **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. A light box may be used to view transparencies.

#### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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#### Preferred Citation:

Col. John H. Sullivan 1964 Earthquake Slides, Anchorage Museum, B2015.013

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by daughter Elizabeth Clements in March 2015.

## Processing Note

Donor note: "My father marked the location of the images on the cardboard edges of the slides, a few have dates. A small number of the notations on the slides are definitely not in my father's handwriting- his is a chicken-scratch block letter, while the others are cursive / long-hand. He doesn't recall who might have labeled the slides besides him."

## RELATED MATERIALS

CIHS McCutcheon Collection, B1964.x.006  
AHFAM Earthquake Photographs, B1969.011  
Betty Bannon Collection, B1970.015  
Zappa Earthquake Papers, B1972.060  
Portage Earthquake Photographs, B1973.070  
Patricia Mayo Earthquake Time Ticket, B1974.013  
Kroninger Photograph Collection, B1976.118  
Army Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1977.118  
Corps of Engineers 1964 Earthquake Photographs, B1979.038  
Woodman Photograph Collection, B1980.027  
McDermott Collection, B1987.083  
Ron Aldrin Earthquake Slides, B1994.024  
Though the Earth Be Moved, B1997.021  
Sanborn Recording of 1964 Earthquake, B1997.023  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Collection, B2002.002  
Charles Koppel 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2002.008  
Norman Campbell Photographs, B2005.041  
Bronitsky Letter, B2006.021  
4th and H St. Demolition Collection, B2007.002  
Opal Myers 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2007.003  
Christenson Slide collection, B2007.016  
Bangkok Embassy Teletype Collection, B2009.044  
Truth Coven Gray Earthquake Album, B2009.056  
Kleihauer Slide Collection, B2010.004  
Johnny Sartor Collection, B2010.020  
Lankford-Ose Photograph Collection, B2011.002  
Kenneth C. Allen Earthquake Slides, B2012.027  
Jean Kaufman Earthquake Photographs, B2012.032  
John Mull III Alaskan Earthquake Reflections, B2012.036  
Sportsman's Club Earthquake Photographs, B2013.001  
Bill and Ellyn Frye letter regarding the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, B2013.011  
Harold and Malita Hitchen Collection, B2013.010  
Milo Fritz Letter to Folks, 1964, B2013.046  
Grace Tucker Letter to Folks, 1964, B2013.051  
Col. Paul W. Stephens 1964 Alaska Earthquake Photographs, B2013.061  
J. O. Anderson 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2014.006

Helen M. Bucy 1964 Earthquake Collection, B2014.008  
Walter Deane 1964 Alaska Earthquake Photographs, B2014.011  
Joan Hurst Letter regarding the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, B2015.010

## **SUBJECTS**

Lemke, Richard W. (Richard Walter), 1913-2003  
Alaska Railroad  
Alaska Earthquake, Alaska, 1964  
Earthquakes – Alaska  
Earthquake damage – Alaska  
Anchorage (Alaska)  
Cordova (Alaska)  
Seward (Alaska)  
Valdez (Alaska)  
Whittier (Alaska)

## Detailed Description of the Collection

- .1 – Cordova area, 2 Apr 64 [aerial]
- .2 – Cannery near Valdez, 3 Apr 64 [aerial of docks]
- .3 – Debris cleanup, Seward, 9 Apr 64 [men wearing hard hats clearing debris pile, Alaska Railroad cars in background]
- .4 – Near Seward, 9 Apr 64 [damaged airplane in wooded area, tail number N83527?]
- .5 – Seward quake damage [damaged airplane near damaged bridge or structure, tail number N2779N?]
- .6 – Seward residence, 9 April 1964 [fissure in snow leading to front door of house]
- .7 – Seward quake & wave damage [damaged airplane in trees]
- .8 – Penny store, 30 Apr 64 [aerial of J.C. Penney, Anchorage]
- .9 – Anchorage. Government Hill school from loop road [damage to exterior]
- .10 – Anchorage hospital [debris pile, Providence Hospital?]
- .11 – Anchorage 4<sup>th</sup> Ave [corner of Fourth Avenue and C Street with businesses including Sam's Liquor Store, Alaska Trading Post Loans, Union Leader, Safari Hotel, and Denali Theater, soldier holding pile of papers walking towards camera, other soldiers wearing bunny boots stationed at barricade at right. Cf. .16]
- .12 – Anchorage 4<sup>th</sup> Ave [view looking west on Fourth Avenue, construction equipment in subsided area in front of Anchorage Arcade, Scandinavian Club Bar, Mac's Foto, Frisco Bar & Café, D & D Bar & Café, with Anchorage Westward Hotel and All-America City banner in distance]
- .13 – Anchorage Hardware Store [exterior of Anchorage Hardware & Sporting Goods]
- .14 – Anchorage, west 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue [snow-covered fissures]
- .15 – Penny's, Anchorage [exterior of J.C. Penney]
- .16 – Anchorage 4<sup>th</sup> Ave [similar to .11]
- .17 – Turnagain [bird's eye view of man removing mattress from damaged house]
- .18 – Turnagain [snow-covered fissures along Cook Inlet]

- .19 – Turnagain [exterior of damaged house]
- .20 – Turnagain [view along area of earth slide, with debris]
- .21 – Turnagain [automobiles in fissures]
- .22 – Whittier [freighter *Chena* at dock]
- .23 – Whittier [freighter *Chena* at dock]
- .24 – Whittier [men unloading mobile housing unit “Magnolia” from freighter]
- .25 – Hodge Bldg Whittier [exterior]
- .26 – Whittier [two men standing in street near collapsed structure]
- .27 – Whittier [opposite side view of same damaged structure as in .26]
- .28 – Portage-Girdwood area [sign reading “1 mile to the Portage Garage gas-oil-tires-welding”]
- .29 – Portage Flats [bridge damage along Seward Highway]
- .30 – Seward Hwy [large fissure and undulations in pavement]
- .31 – Seward [burned tanks at port]
- .32 – Seward [tank at port still burning]
- .33 – Seward [flipped rail cars and damaged track next to damaged building, crushed automobile at right]
- .34 – Cordova [wooden braces holding up exterior wall of concrete block building, possibly grocery store]
- .35 – Cordova [damaged small bridge, automobiles in gravel parking lot next to building in background]
- .36 – Cordova [destroyed building, water in background]
- .37 – Cordova [street view, undulations in earth in foreground, crane truck at right, soldiers wearing bunny boots in distance, signs for businesses including Pinzon Bar, Dolphin Café, Food Lanes, Gilson’s]
- .38 – Seward [toppled tank in tank farm]
- .39 – Valdez [oil tank on fire]
- .40 – Valdez [soldier with rifle standing on street next to sign reading “Have fun at Valdez, the Switzerland of Alaska”]
- .41 – Valdez (tsunamic) [boat *Gulf King* on its side]
- .42 – Anchorage 4th Ave [demolished block on Fourth Avenue, Anchorage Westward Hotel in background; print date Jul 64]
- .43 – [demolished block on Fourth Avenue, with hoisting equipment, Bowling Emporium and McKinley Apartments in background; print date Jul 64]
- .44 – Anchorage, Penny’s [photographer standing next to fencing with “No Parking” sign next to damaged parking garage, J.C. Penney; print date Jul 64]
- .45 – Anchorage, Penny’s [similar to .44; print date Jul 64]
- .46 – Anchorage, “L” Str. [corner of Fifth Avenue and L Street, with white picket fence in front of lifted house foundation; print date Jul 64]
- .47 – Anchorage, “L” Str. [damaged house; print date Jul 64]
- .48 – Anchorage, “L” Str. [pile of debris from demolished house; print date Jul 64]
- .49 – Anchorage, “L” Str. [fissure between buildings; print date Jul 64]
- .50 – Anchorage, hospt. under const. [view across intersection to toppled Four Seasons Apartments; print date Jul 64]

- .51 – Anchorage, “L” Str. [exterior of multi-story building, Cook Inlet in distance; print date Jul 64]
- .52 – Anchorage, apt. house multi story [exterior of L Street Apartments; print date Jul 64]
- .53 – Turnagain [damaged house; print date Jul 64]
- .54 – Turnagain [fissures in earth; print date Jul 64]
- .55 – Turnagain [damaged house; print date Jul 64]
- .56 – Turnagain [fallen trees along edge of slide; print date Jul 64]
- .57 – Turnagain [small outbuilding or greenhouse amid fissures; print date Jul 64]
- .58 – Turnagain [view down fissure to Cook Inlet, damaged houses at right; print date Jul 64]
- .59 – Turnagain [damaged houses in slide area; print date Jul 64]
- .60 – Turnagain [bird’s eye view of damaged house; print date Jul 64]
- .61 – Turnagain [fissures in earth, Mount Susitna in background; print date Jul 64]
- .62 – Turnagain [damaged houses in slide area; print date Jul 64]
- .63 – Turnagain [damaged houses in slide area; print date Jul 64]
- .64 – Anchorage, apt. house multi story [exterior of L Street Apartments; print date Jul 64]
- .65 – Anchorage, gen’l harbor [view from bluff above railroad tracks across mouth of Ship Creek to Port of Anchorage; print date Jul 64]
- .66 – Anchorage, Gov’t Hill slide [exterior of Government Hill school; print date Jul 64]
- .67 – Seward, large slide by earthquake [view across Seward Highway and Alaska Railroad tracks to mountains; print date Jul 64]
- .68 – Resurrection Bay [scenic; print date Jul 64]
- .69 – Seward, dock failure [view along buckled metal on side of dock area; print date Jul 64]
- .70 – Alaskan bush pilot [man wearing hard hat standing on damaged Alaska Railroad tracks, bay in background; print date Jul 64]
- .71 – Seward RR yard [damaged Alaska Railroad tracks along bay; print date Jul 64]
- .72 – Seward RR yard [damaged track and burned structures; print date Jul 64]
- .73 – Dick Lemke [man smoking pipe standing next to oil tanks; print date Jul 64]
- .74 – Seward RR yard [jumbled freight and tanker cars in Alaska Railroad yard; print date Jul 64]
- .75 – Seward RR yard [damaged railroad cars on tracks along bay; print date Jul 64]
- .76 – Seward Lagoon [view across flats with scattered debris; print date Jul 64]
- .77 – Seward, split tree [lumber floating in water next to flooded and split pine tree; print date Jul 64]
- .78 – Mud spout or sand boil, Seward [silt boil in wooded area; print date Aug 64]
- .79 – Seward subsidence fissure [small fissure in grass beneath tall trees; print date Aug 64]
- .80 – Seward RR dock damage [bird’s eye view of damaged buildings on dock; print date Aug 64]
- .81 – Seward, general [bird’s eye view of town, possibly from Mount Marathon; print date Aug 64]
- .82 – Seward, mile 18 [damaged Seward Highway bridge, debris in river; print date Aug 64]
- .83 – Seward, mile 18 bridge [view from bridge along highway; print date Aug 64]
- .84 – Seward, Marathon Mt. [scenic; print date Aug 64]
- .85 – Kenia Lake [scenic of Kenai Lake; print date Aug 64]
- .86 – Kenia Lake [scenic of Kenai Lake; print date Aug 64]

- .87 – Seward airport [Cordova Airlines Douglas DC-3 airplane on airstrip; print date Aug 64]
- .88 – Moose [moose in wooded area; print date Aug 64]
- .89 – Seward mile 18 [aerial of bridge construction; print date Aug 64]
- .90 – The “Unga” on Herb Stenson [man on boat in Resurrection Bay; print date Aug 64]
- .91 – Resurrection Bay [scenic; print date Aug 64]
- .92 – Resurrection Bay [scenic, possibly whale breaching in distance; print date Aug 64]
- .93 – Thumb’s Cove [view of slide area from water; print date Aug 64]
- .94 – Thumb’s Cove [similar to .93; print date Aug 64]
- .95 – Seward 4th of July [majorette parading past spectators along street, Fourth of July; print date Aug 64]
- .96 – Seward 4 Jul 64 [young woman wearing tiara and red cloak and holding roses riding in back of automobile, Fourth of July parade; print date Aug 64]
- .97 – Seward 4 Jul 64 [young woman wearing white dress and gloves riding in back of automobile, Fourth of July parade; print date Aug 64]
- .98 – “Flicker Red” [woman wearing costume and holding sign for Dinner Club on street in front of Gil’s Cocktail Lounge, Fourth of July parade; print date Aug 64]
- .99 – Seward 4 Jul 64 [runners coming into Mount Marathon Race finish line, passing spectators and businesses; print date Aug 64]
- .100 – Seward 4 Jul 64 [runner coming into Mount Marathon Race finish line, passing band on flatbed truck and spectators with cameras; print date Aug 64]
- .101 – Seward, Marathon Mt. [scenic; print date Aug 64]

Guide written: May 13, 2015