

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

**TITLE:** Austin E. Kiser Scrapbook

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2015.018

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1942-1945

Extent: 1 box; 1.5 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Austin E. Kiser

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Austin Enfield Kiser was born to Miles and Elizabeth Kiser in Pennsylvania in 1880. He worked as a master electrician for Guy F. Atkinson Co., a civilian contractor working on Adak during World War II. Nothing else was known about Kiser at the time of processing.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of one scrapbook measuring 12" x 10" containing pressed plants, V-mail, poetry, postcards, photographs, and other ephemera created or collected by Austin Kiser during his service on Adak from 1943-1945. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Original order maintained

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in fair to good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Austin E. Kiser Scrapbook, Anchorage Museum, B2015.018

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by grandson Robert Wagers in June 2015.

**SUBJECTS**

Kiser, Austin E., b. 1880

Gilstrap, Owen R.

United States—Armed Forces—Civilian employees

World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—Aleutian Islands

Adak Island (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Inside cover]

- Manuscript poem. "God has not forgot."

[p. 1]

- Ticket. United Airlines, for A.E. Kiser

.1 – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 1943 [Color postcard. United Airlines airplane and ground crew]

[p. 2]

- V-mail. To Mrs. A.E. Kiser from your buddy. Postmarked April 8, 1944

[p. 3]

- Typescript poem. "God has not forgot."

.2 – Aleutian 1944 [Austin Kiser standing in doorway of Quonset hut]

[p. 4]

- V-mail. To A.E. Kiser from Dr. Sadie E. Wolff. Dated May 19, 1944

- Flora. Dated April 27, 1944

[p. 5]

.3 – July 24, '44 [20 color postcards in accordion fold]

.4 – Eskimo and kiak. Copyright by Lomen Bros., Nome. [in manuscript] Dec. 6, '44, Austin and kiak on the way home [color postcard]

[p. 6]

- V-mail. To A.E. Kiser from Dr. S.E. Wolff. Dated September 26, 1944

- Clipping. "This week these men volunteered their time to publish the Bering Breeze: ... Austin Kiser..." Dated October 28, 1944

[p. 7]

- Flora. Dated June 5, 1944

- Paper flower. Dated May 30, 1944

[p. 8]

- Manuscript poem. "It's not the bite of the driving wind." Dated May 10, 1944

[p. 9]

- Flora. Dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944

[p. 10]

- Manuscript poem. "Where the angry Bering breezes blew." Dated June 28, 1944

[p. 11]

- Flora. Dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944

[p. 12]

- Manuscript poem. "The dawn that I live for will come." Dated July 2, 1944

[p. 13]

- Flora. Dated July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1944

[p. 14]

- Typescript poem. "To my wife." Dated August 31, 1944

[p. 15]

- Flora. Dated August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1944

[p. 16]

- Typescript poem. "I miss you." Dated October 26, 1944

[p. 17]

- Flora. Dated September 16, 1944

.5 – Pipe the hat. Isn't it about the right angle. Oct. 26, '44 [Austin at right, standing outdoors next to building with two men, one wearing apron, one wearing cook's hat]

- Typescript poem. "I need you dear." Dated September 23, 1944

[p. 18]

- Typescript poems. "Weapons." "Prayer for my daddy." "Fair share." "The answer." Dated September 10, 1944

[p. 19]

- Clipping. Re Art Sanner's garden, with illustration by T/S Paxton. Dated September 5, 1944

- Clipping. "Aleutian volcano eruption kills one." No date

- Clipping. Cartoon "Private Buck" by Clyde Lewis, "Redwood, Calif. 'Betcha none of Hitler's tanks could smash through a tree like that!'" Dated September 9, 1944

[p. 20]

- Typescript poem. "Somewhere in the Aleutians." Dated July 1944

- Typescript poem. "God has not forgot." Dated July 1944

[p. 21]

.6 – Today a Navy ‘Quonset’ hut [color illustration]

.7 – Aleutian breeze. Life, July 27 [black-and-white photograph of soldier leaning into wind]

[p. 22]

- Manuscript poem. “Your voice came to me on the wind to-day.” Dated June 7, 1944

[p. 23]

- Manuscript poem. “Our to-morrow.” Dated August 27, 1944

[p. 24]

-Manuscript poem. “Aleutian sunset.” Dated March 1944

[p. 25]

- Manuscript poem. “An old man, traveling a lone highway.” Dated June 11, 1944

[p. 26]

- Manuscript poem. “A.P.O. 980.” Dated May 23, 1944

[p. 27]

.8 – Aleutian 1944. Guess who? “Austin” – with whiskers [Austin sitting on cot in Quonset hut, photographs on walls]

.9 – Aleutian 1944. Is this “Ivan Romanoff”? No, just Owen behind that brush [man with beard sitting on cot in Quonset hut]

[p. 28]

- Manuscript poem. “Wherever I am, on land or sea.” Dated November 6, 1944

[p. 29]

- Manuscript poem. “Every other night to you I write.” Dated November 24, 1944. On Alaska Command letterhead

[p. 30]

- Typescript poems. “America singing.” “Flying the mail.” “Reward of toilers.” Dated November 29, 1944

[p. 31]

- Typescript poem. “He knew.” Dated November 29, 1944

- Typescript poem. “Relax.”

.10 – Dec. 5, '44 [group portrait of men inside Quonset hut. Cf. .13]

[p. 32]

- Ticket. Alaska Transportation Company, War Shipping Administration, Passenger Identification Check for vessel Lindley M. Garrison

- Certificate. Guy F. Atkinson Company Employment and Assignment Slip, Austin Enfield Kiser

- Certificate. Quarter orders for Austin E. Kiser

[p. 33]

- Memorandum. West Construction Company letter of introduction for Owen R. Gilstrap. Dated June 28, 1944

- Ticket. Harbor boat pass.

- License. Territory of Alaska Automobile Driver’s License for Owen R. Gilstrap

[p. 34]

- Luggage tag. A.E. Kiser, clothing. Dated December 6, 1944

- Luggage tag. A.E. Kiser, fishing poles. Dated December 6, 1944

[p. 35]

- Certificate. APO 980 certification of container contents. Dated August 2, 1944
- Ticket. Alaska Transportation Company, War Shipping Administration, Passenger Identification Check for vessel Lindley M. Garrison
- Certificate. Medical examination, Austin E. Kiser  
[p. 36]
- Placeholder. Austin Kiser, Adak, Alaska, Camp Library, Bering Breeze Banquet, November 1944
- .11 – [group portrait, four men holding sheet cake with icing reading “Bering Breeze Camp Library”]
- Menu. Bering Breeze Banquet. With signatures of attendees.  
[p. 37]
- Invitation. Bering Breeze Banquet, November 2, 1944
- .12 – [men seated at tables, probably Bering Breeze banquet]
- .13 – [group portrait of men inside Quonset hut. Cf. .10]  
[p. 38]
- Ticket. Civilian-Army-Navy fights, September 16
- Identification card. Austin E. Kiser, civilian noncombatant
- License. Motor vehicle operator’s permit, A.E. Kiser  
[p. 39]
- Clipping. Illustration of dog  
[p. 40]
- Manuscript poem. “They hate to go home.”  
[p. 41]
- Manuscript poem. “Two things I love.”  
[p. 42]
- Typescript poem. “You’ll soon be home.”  
[p. 43]
- .14 – Merry Christmas, Austin & Mrs. Kiser. I’ll always remember you. Watson [illustration of men leaning into wind in front of Quonset hut]  
[p. 44]
- Typescript poem. “Myself.”
- Typescript poems. “Happy dissenter.” “Consoling.” “The carpenter.”
- Sticker. Alaska Steamship Co., S.S. *Alaska*  
[p. 45]
- Typescript poem. “Aleutian love letter.”  
[p. 46]
- Receipt. United Airlines baggage
- Ticket. Alaska Steamship Co., S.S. *Cordova*
- Sticker. Alaska Steamship Co., S.S. *Alaska*
- Receipt. Territory of Alaska, School Tax, Owen R. Gilstrap  
[p. 47]
- .15 – 22240 [identification card, Owen Gilstrap]
- .16 – [studio portrait, Owen Gilstrap]
- .17 – [studio portrait, Owen Gilstrap]

- Identification card. Owen R. Gilstrap, civilian noncombatant
- Ticket. Alaska Steamship Company

[p. 48]

- Menu. The Dell's Café. Dated September 19, 1942

[p. 49]

.18 – War Department, Engineer Detachment, 4817<sup>th</sup> SCU, 8<sup>th</sup> Service Command Detachment, Owen R. Gilstrap [identification card]

- Badge. West Construction Co.
- Luggage tag. A.E. Kiser, radio. Dated December 6, 1944
- Typescript poem. "Etiquette stampede."
- Luggage tag. Owen R. Gilstrap

[Laid in]

- Certificate. Austin E. Kiser, Pension Member, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
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Guide written: June 30, 2015