

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Ivy Turinsky, Archivist

TITLE: CIHS Grube Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1971.014

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1923

Extent: 27 copy prints and 13 copy negatives

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Merrill E. Grube

Administrative/Biographical History:

Merrill E. Grube was a professional photographer in Anchorage, Alaska. Grube owned his own photography company and worked at the Anchorage Community College.

Scope and Content Description:

The Grube Collection consists of 27 copy photographic prints with *select* copy negatives (.15-.27). The images primarily depict Indigenous people and communities in and from Tanana Valley, Tl'atitca'e (Copper Center), Atna (Copper River), East Cape, Sitkasuaq (Nome), and the Yukon River. The images document cultural activities and travel by canoe and umiaq, as well as berry harvesting and clothing. Handwritten captions on the backs of prints note "1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album n.d." For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in number order.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use. Restricted items noted in detailed description below. Please contact ARC staff for information and access.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

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

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: CIHS Grube Collection, B1971.014

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information:

Donated by Merrill E. Grube on April 5, 1971, to the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Transferred to the Anchorage Museum.

Processing Note:

All items in collection have corresponding images in John Urban Collection, B1964.001, as noted in item-level description below. Accession paperwork notes that all negatives and prints are from 1923 photo album – Urban. Some of the copy prints in this collection crop the full image visible in the B1964.001 photographic prints.

Accession paperwork states that 27 copy negatives of images in CIHS collection were donated (property of CIHS). 13 negatives present at time of writing. Per accession paperwork, two sets of prints were made, one sent to Alaska State Museum and the other made property of the Anchorage Museum (presumably, this collection).

RELATED MATERIALS

B1962.001, B1962.001A Crary-Henderson Collection

B1964.001 John Urban Collection

B1967.013 CIHS Sundberg

William R. Norton Photograph Collection, ca. 1890-1920, PCA 226, Alaska State Library –
Historical Collections

Frank H. Nowell Collection no. 316, University of Washington Libraries

SUBJECTS

Chief Goodlataw

John Goodlataw
Doc Billum
Douglas Billum
Kaw-Claa
Sport McAllister
Ahtna
Atna / Copper River (Alaska)
Akauchak or Kauñiq / Council (Alaska)
Lingít
Sitñasuaq / Nome (Alaska)
Tanana Valley, Alaska
Tl'aticae'e / Copper Center (Alaska)
Ugiuvak / King Island (Alaska)
Yukon River

Detailed Description of the Collection

F1

- .1 – [handwritten on back of print: Dress parade, [Indigenous people] with parkas & 2 reindeer. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [five Indigenous reindeer herders dressed in fur parkas and pants, with a dog and two reindeer in decorative harnesses for fair at Qigiqtaq (Shishmaref), Iñupiaq territory in snowy forest. Same as B1964.001.436] [Photographic postcard. Photographer: Lomen Bros.] [At AFN 2022, group identified as likely being from the coast due to the “walrus tusk” style parkas; At AFN 2023, location tentatively identified as Pilgrim Hot Springs and unlikely Shishmaref since there are no trees there]
- .2 – [back: [Indigenous] son (area not stated). 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [Indigenous child standing next to sled and gun in snowy forest, wearing parka, flower design on boots. Same as B1964.001.435]
- .3 – [back: [Indigenous individual] of Tanana Valley. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [Young Indigenous individual posing on stump overlooking water, blanket on second stump to left. Same as B1964.001.423]
- .4 – [back: [Indigenous woman] with birchbark canoe on Yukon River. 1923 scrapbook or album. N.d.] [Indigenous individual paddling birchbark canoe on the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.393]
- .5 – [back: Berry pickers. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [three Indigenous women sitting on ground harvesting berries and laughing. Same as B1964.001.420]
- .6 – Lomen Bros Nome; East Cape [Indigenous group] arriving in Nome, Alaska. [back: East Cape [Indigenous people], in Oomiak [sic] arriving in Nome. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [thirteen Indigenous individuals traveling by umiak on Snake River. Inupiaq territory, Sitnasuak (Nome). Same as B1964.001.434, B1967.013.033] [At AFN 2025, individuals confirmed as being from King Island.]
- .7 – [back: [Indigenous people] of Tanana Valley; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [young Indigenous individual posing in shallow water, possibly the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.421]

- .8 – [back: Young [Indigenous individuals] in village. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [group of Indigenous individuals posing in front of log buildings. Same as B1964.001.416]
- .9 – [back: Present generation - educated in the missions. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [two young Indigenous individuals posing outside log building. Same as B1964.001.429]
- .10 – [Restricted because of sensitive content]
- .11 – [back: Present generation, all educated in the missions. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [four individuals, three wearing dresses and one wearing pants, standing on a grassy bank in front of water. Same as B1964.001.428]
- .12 – [back: All dressed up to meet the President (believed to be Harding; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.) [two Indigenous children standing in front of wooden wall, one wearing overalls and holding a U.S. flag, the other wearing a dress, possibly beaded designs on shoes. Same as B1964.001.427]
- .13 – [back: Family group. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [five Indigenous family members posing outside log building, woodpile behind. Same as B1964.001.426]
- .14 – [back: [Indigenous] girl[']s own idea of posing. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [young Indigenous individual poses wrapped in striped blanket and headband standing in river, possibly the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.422]
- .15 – [back: Chief's home; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [totem poles in front of log buildings and cache. Possibly on the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.418]
- .16 – [back: Trading Post, Council City, Nome; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [groups of individuals, including Indigenous individuals, in front of fences, buildings. Signs read, "TH Burman General Merchandise" and "Horton S Moore Merchandise [illegible]." Akauchak or Kauliq (Council), Iñupiaq Territory. Same as B1964.001.431]
- .17 – [back: 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [four Indigenous individuals: one standing in doorway, one holding child, second child standing on chair. Same as B1964.001.425]
- .18 – No. 3. [?]owl Drug Co. Copper River [Indigenous individuals], Cordova, Alaska; hand colored [back: Copper River [Indigenous individuals] (Woodsmen); Cordova, Alaska; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [four Indigenous, possibly Ahtna, individuals standing with axes, two two-man crosscut saws. Individuals possibly from Atna (Copper River), Ahtna Territory. Cordova, Eyak Territory. Same as B1964.001.461]
- .19 – of Copper River [Indigenous individuals], Alaska; 403 [back: Family of Copper River [Indigenous individuals]; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.] [two Indigenous, possibly Ahtna, adults and three children. Atna (Copper River), Ahtna Territory. Same as B1964.001.452]
- .20 – [Indigenous individual] in Birch Bark Canoe on the Yukon River, Alaska [back: On Yukon River, Alaska; [Indigenous individual] in Birch bark canoe; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album. N.d.; 1909.] [Indigenous individual paddling birch bark canoe on the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.451]
- .21 – [back: [Indigenous women's] Race (area not stated); 1923 scrapbook early n.d. or 1923 photo album.] [Indigenous individuals running down a path in front of log buildings, crowd in background. Same as B1964.001.417]

- .22 – [back: Half-white & Native; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album; n.d.] [two Indigenous adults and two children posed for camera; seated individual in chair covered with fur pelt blanket, possibly lynx fur (?). Same as B1964.001.433]
- .23 – [back: Birch Canoe on River. Two [Indigenous people] – rowing; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album; n.d.] [two Indigenous individuals paddling canoe, possibly on the Yukon River. Same as B1964.001.432]
- .24 – [back: [Indigenous] girl's own idea of posing; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album; n.d.] [Indigenous individual wearing floral dress and apron posing, watering can at left, fence, building behind. Same as B1964.001.424]
- .25 – Billum & family at Copper River Ferry. -LaVoy [back: Doc Billum & family at Copper River Ferry. 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album, n.d.] [Photographic postcard. Group portrait of twelve Ahtna individuals, including children, standing in front of buildings. Doc Billum (wearing top hat) and family. Douglas Billum stands directly to right of Doc Billum next to woman in striped dress. Three dogs, one in foreground. Ahtna (Copper River), Ahtna Territory. Same as B1964.001.457]
- .26 – [back: last of the tribe - all carried off by disease. Sport McAllist[e]r with necklace on R[ight]; John Goodlutaw [sic: Goodletaw] [Goodlataw] extreme left; 1923 scrapbook or 1923 photo album, n.d.] [Indigenous adults and children posing outside, several wearing dentalia jewelry, log building structures in background (caches?). One child holding puppy. Same as B1964.001.439]
- .27 – **[Restricted because of sensitive content]**

Guide written: February 3, 2009

Guide updated: February 20, 2020; June 12, 2026