

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** Collyer Photograph Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B1980.028

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1916-1917

Extent: 24 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): William C. Collyer

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

William Collyer was a resident of Juneau from January 1916-August 1917 working for the Ingersoll-Rand Company, an equipment manufacturer. According to the donor, "Ingersoll-Rand Co. maintained a substantial warehouse of rock-drills, accessories, [?] parts, etc., which were widely used in the metalliferous mining and construction industries. Juneau at that time was a large center of metalliferous gold mining, as distinguished from the alluvial gold mining in the Fairbanks and Dawson areas. Each summer [he] made a trip to Kennicott, Valdez, Latouche and Anchorage. Anchorage at that time was a railroad construction camp." Collyer passed away in 1980 in Palo Alto, California.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of 23 black-and-white photographic prints taken by Collyer during his time in Alaska in 1916-1917, as well as 1 black-and-white postcard. Subjects include Yakutat, Juneau, Cordova, Seward, Valdez, Kennicott, Latouche, and scenery and glaciers. According to the donor, the photos of the Latouche area "were taken at a small copper prospect about ten miles down the coast from the Latouche mine. That's Collyer with a hat and smoking a pipe."

**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:

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 owns copyright to this collection, which enters the public domain in 2050.

Preferred Citation: Collyer Photograph Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1980.28

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by William C. Collyer on January 21, 1980.

## **SUBJECTS**

Anchorage (Alaska)

Copper River and Northwestern Railway

Cordova (Alaska)

Glaciers

Housing

Juneau (Alaska)

Kennicott (Alaska)

Latouche Island (Alaska)

Mineral industries—Alaska

Seward (Alaska)

Skagway (Alaska)

Valdez (Alaska)

White Pass & Yukon Route

Yakutat (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

.01 – This is “Murph” sometimes known as R. E. Murphy of the Du Pont Powder Co. [man in suit and hat standing and smiling in front of building with hand in pocket]

.02 – Aperture taken from my window at Juneau [aerial view of residential buildings]

.03 – A small iceberg in Stephen’s Passage, about 40 miles from Juneau. Picture taken July 4, 1916.

.04 – [missing]

- .05 – Yakutat Salmon Cannery. Yakutat, Alaska. [crowd of people walking around; partial sign on building reads “SOUTHERN RY-CO.”]
- .06 – [Indigenous] dwellings at Yakutat Salmon Cannery. Yakutat, Alaska. [residential buildings on the water] [At AFN 2025, location identified as Old Yakutat.] [Tlingit territory, Yaakwdáat (Yakutat)]
- .07 – Looking aft on the Steamship “Admiral Evans”
- .08 – Yours truly at Cordova. [Collyer in suit and hat standing in front of building with sign that reads “THE WINDSOR”]
- .09 – Residences at Cordova. [tree and mountain scenic with some houses]
- .10 – Trestle on the CR+NW Ry. [Copper River and Northwestern Railway] At Cordova Alaska.
- .11 – Water front at Seward. [buildings, one of which reads “BROWN & HAWKINS”]
- .12 – Main Street, Cordova, Alaska.
- .13 – Looking out over the bay at Cordova, Alaska
- .14 – Looking toward the head of our train on the C.R. + N.W. Ry. [Copper River and Northwestern Railway]
- .15 – A lot of scenery on the Copper River Ry. [Railway; Chugach Mountains]
- .16 – Seward, Alaska. From the boat coming [mountain and water scenic]
- .17 – Water front a Seward. [buildings and mountains]
- .18 – Valdez – Alaska 5-25-14 [1914]  
 Postcard to Mrs. R. W. Collyer in New Jersey that reads “Am now farther away from home than ever. Have been very busy and have not had time to write. Will write to you from time to time of course. Love, Curtis.” Dated July 20, 1916.
- .19 – Childs Glacier C.R.+N.W. [Copper River and Northwestern Railway]
- .20 – Childs Glacier. C.R.+N.W. Ry. [Copper River and Northwestern Railway.] Picture taken from moving train so I couldn’t have time to line up the camera.
- .21 – Miles Glacier. CR+NW Ry. [Copper River and Northwestern Railway.] All of the glacier pictures were taken from the train platform so they are not very good.
- .22 – Miles Glacier. [taken from train on Copper River and Northwestern Railway]
- .23 – The “White Pass” out from Skagway, Alaska. It was thru this pass that all the gold seekers went in the stampede in 1898. [White Pass and Yukon Railroad]
- .24 – At La Touche [Latouche], Alaska. [two men, one (Collyer) sitting with pipe in mouth, one standing with cigar in mouth and rifle in arm]
- .25 – Also at La Touche [Latouche]. [two men, one (Collyer) sitting and smiling, one standing and smiling with cigar in mouth]

Guide written: January 26, 2022

Guide updated: June 4, 2026