

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** James. T. Wilson Collection

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2024.003

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1956-1958, 2004

Extent: 1 box

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): William A. Gibson, Jr., Ray Hilner, Robert M. Huhn, Jr., S.J. Ogrocki, Herman M. Page

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

William Arthur "Art" Gibson, Jr., was born June 11, 1936, in Topeka, Kansas, to William A. Gibson, Sr. and Lillian Japhet Gibson. After graduation from Topeka High School in 1954, Gibson joined the Army and was stationed in Alaska where he served as a photographer.

In 1961, Gibson married Pat Lemon Lewis, whom he met while enrolled at Washburn University. The couple went on to have three daughters. In 1966 the Gibson family relocated to Wichita, Kansas, where Art worked as a photographer for Kansas Gas and Electric. He retired in 2000 as Supervisor of Distribution.

Like his father, Gibson was a lifelong railfan. He was one of the founding members of the Great Plains Transportation Museum, where some of his and his father's photographic collections remain. Gibson died on June 5, 2022.

Scope and Content Description: This collection consists of 2 photographic prints, 148 negatives, and 57 35mm color slides. The images document Alaska Railroad locomotives, depots, and train yards, Korean War era military workshops, Army winter camping, and soldier recreational activities. Areas depicted include Anchorage, Portage, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, Seward, Nenana, and Hope.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by format.

## **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: A lightbox is recommended for viewing.

### 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: James T. Wilson Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2024.3

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by James T. Wilson in December 2023.

### Separated Materials

Items that did not fit within the Anchorage Museum collecting scope or were in poor condition were culled.

### Note

Per the donor, William Arthur "Art" Gibson, Jr., is the primary photographer of the collection unless otherwise specifically noted in the detailed description below.

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

Alaska Railroad Collection, B1979.002

Morgan Sherwood Alaska Railroad Photographs, B1999.022

Alaska Railroad Week Posters, B2013.013

Alaska Railroad Equipment Photographs, B2013.015

W.L. McCulloch Alaska Railroad Collection, B2015.016  
Alaska Railroad Denali Park Slides, B2015.031  
Arturo Lloyd Alaska Railroad Photographs, B2017.032  
Dudley Westler Alaska Railroad Slides B2017.033  
Guy Wheeler Alaska Railroad Collection, B2019.001  
Alaska Railroad Slides, B2019.015  
Alaska Railroad Ephemera Collection, B2020.005

## **SUBJECTS**

Alaska Railroad  
Anchorage (Alaska)  
Black people  
Campbell (Alaska)  
Camping  
Fairbanks (Alaska)  
Fort Richardson (Alaska)  
Hope (Alaska)  
Korean War, 1950-1953  
Locomotives – Alaska  
Nenana (Alaska)  
Palmer (Alaska)  
People of color  
Portage (Alaska)  
Railroad stations – Alaska  
Seward (Alaska)  
Trainspotters  
United States. Army  
Wasilla (Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

### **B1 – Photographic Prints and Negatives**

- .1 – Alaska R.R. 1074 & 1069 on train X1074 North. Anchorage, Alaska. Sept. 2, 1956. From 216 1-57. Ray Hilner. Topeka, Kansas. [see also B2024.003.165]
- .2 – A.R.R. 1041 Alco 1500 hp. Stored A.R.R. yards. Anchorage, Alaska. Aug. 31, 1956. From 216 1-57
- .3 – [Engine 1514 at Fairbanks depot]
- .4 – [Bird’s-eye view of parking lot and buildings]
- .5 – [48<sup>th</sup> Engineer Maint. Co. buildings and nearby chapel]
- .6 – [“NCO Open Mess – U.S. Army” sign and people in uniform near building]
- .7 – [Engine 562]
- .8 – ARR & Spenard Rd. Int. Airport Spur [Anchorage International Airport Spur. Rail crane on incomplete track]

- .9 – ARR X1052. Fort Richardson, Alaska. Winter 1958. By Robert M. Huhn Jr.
- .10 – ARR 561
- .11 – [ARR 1001]
- .12 – [Alaska Railroad, Dept. of the Interior. Car 84 at yard]
- .13 – [ARR 1070 at yard]
- .14 – [ARR 1070. McKinley National Park Route logo]
- .15 – Pile Driver 7 [ARR 1203]
- .16 – 404 [Engine 404]
- .17 – 402 [Engine 402]
- .18 – 405 [Engine 405]
- .19 – 406 [Engine 406]
- .20 – 51 [ARR 51]
- .21 – Train Scenes Various [Alaska Railroad Freight House]
- .22 – Train Scenes Various [ARR X1508 passing lumberyard, scenic]
- .23 – Train Scenes Various [ARR 1502 (?) crossing bridge, scenic]
- .24 – 558 [Engine 558]
- .25 – 555 [Engine 555]
- .26 – 554 [Engine 554]
- .27 – 559 [Engine 559]
- .28 – [Passengers boarding ARR 1510, McKinley National Park Route locomotive]
- .29 – 561 [ARR 561. Person with camera at right. Scenic]
- .30 – 560 [Engine 560]
- .31 – 701 [Engine 701]
- .32 – 1070 [ARR 1070. Roller Rink – ARR Employees and Teenage Club in background.]
- .33 – 1072 [ARR 1072 at yard]
- .34 – 1076 [ARR 1076, 1057, and P4 at shed]
- .35 – 1201 [ARR 1201 in shed]
- .36 – 1203 [ARR 1203 and 7107]
- .37 – 1300 [ARR 1300]
- .38 – #3 [Distant view of yards with trains, water tower, and buildings. Scenic.]
- .39 – #3 [ARR 1000. Crew with freight and hand trucks.]
- .40 – [Engine 562 and 556]
- .41 – [ARR 1510 at station. Two people at left.]
- .42 – 1500 [ARR 1500 at station]
- .43 – 1501 [ARR 1501, last car. At station.]
- .44 – 1502 [ARR 1502. Roller Rink – Employees and Teenage Club in background.]
- .45 – 1502 [ARR 1502 and 1501 departing shed. ARR 1505 and 1018 at right.]
- .46 – 1508 [ARR 1508]
- .47 – 1507 [ARR 1507, car]
- .48 – [ARR 1512. Roller Rink – Employees and Teenage Club in background.]
- .49 – [United States Army, Transportation Corps. Engine 4077 at yard.]
- .50 – [Engine 8650 at shed]
- .51 – [Possibly Fort Richardson]

- .52 – [ARR 1014 at yard. Water tower in background.]
- .53 – [ARR 1029]
- .54 – [United States Army, Transportation Corps. Engine 7109 at yard. Water tower in background.]
- .55 – [Train car interior. Possibly lounge car.]
- .56 – [Person posed at front of Engine 561, possibly William Gibson.]
- .57 – [ARR Engine 7109 and ARR 12328 with freight at yard]
- .58 – [Engine 1027 in shop]
- .59 – [Two people outside Skyline Service Club at Fort Richardson]
- .60 – [View down train tracks at Mile 64.0 Portage]
- .61 – [ARR 1027]
- .62 – 703 [Engine 703]
- .63 – 702 [Engine 702]
- .64 – 1000 [ARR Engine 1000 and 1014 at shed]
- .65 – [Locomotive 1000 at yard]
- .66 – [ARR 1067]
- .67 – [Window display at Hobby Lobby craft store]
- .68 – [Person posed with taxidermy Brown Bear]
- .69 – [ARR 313 with various machinery and equipment at yard]
- .70 – [Distant view of Alaska Hyway Tour buses parked near log buildings]
- .71 – [United States Army, Transportation Corps. Engine 7107]
- .72 – [United States Army, Transportation Corps. Engine 7109. ARR boxcars at left.]
- .73 – [United States Army, Transportation Corps. Engine 7112]
- .74 – [People in workshop, machinery and equipment]
- .75 – [Black person next to US Army 1083, midwinter.]
- .76 – [Detail view of electric model train and switches]
- .77 – Number: 561. Road: Alaska. Kind: 2-8-0. Place and Date: Seward Memorial Day weekend [19]57. Remarks: Remember the “hair of the dog that bit you”? [ARR 561. Person with camera at left. Scenic mountain background.]
- .78 – 1065 [ARR 1065 at shop]
- .79 – 1057 [ARR 1057 with P4 at shop]
- .80 – 1055 [ARR 1055 at shop]
- .81 – 1052 [ARR 1052]
- .82 – 1043 [ARR 1043, 1042 at left]
- .83 – 1036 [ARR 1036]
- .84 – 1041 [ARR 1041, Alco 1500hp]
- .85 – 1034 [ARR 1034]
- .86 – 1032, EX 8024
- .87 – 1032 [ARR 1032 with 1035 at yard]
- .88 – [X1502 enroute. Scenic. Person at left.]
- .89 – [Seward Depot]
- .90 – [United States Army train, Medical Department, Medical Unit Car]
- .91 – [Shop interior]

- .92 – [Train at depot, community and buildings in background, Burro crane at left]
- .93 – [Soldier at winter camp. Tents in center, supplies scattered around.]
- .94 – [Person in workshop at bench]
- .95 – [Soldier dressed in winter gear at camp, tent in background]
- .96 – [Person laying on side pointing camera at photographer]
- .97 – [Soldier at desk]
- .98 – [Person in overalls smoking and leaning against work bench]
- .99 – [Five people at table in workshop]
- .100 – [Two people in workshop. Tools and machinery nearby.]
- .101 – [Person in workshop posed with machinery]
- .102 – [Person in workshop amongst machinery and equipment]
- .103 – [Group photo, 21 people in workshop]
- .104 – [Soldier leaning against lockers in workshop]
- .105 – [Four soldiers playing card game on cots]
- .106 – [Moose cow and calf amongst trees, midwinter]
- .107 – [Five soldiers in winter gear at camp]
- .108 – [Person pointing camera (?) at photographer, next to U.S. Army vehicle IC 8634. Scenic.]
- .109 – [Log building with nearby structures. J.W. Carter Taxidermist sign at right. Hope.]
- .110 – [Exterior of Hope Social Hall log building, man at right]
- .111 – [U.S. Post Office, Hope, Alaska. Building exterior.]
- .112 – [Winter view down valley, scenic. Possibly near Hope.]
- .113 – [Street view of Hope, charter bus parked near Social Hall.]
- .114 – [Street view of Hope. J.W. Carter Taxidermist, Hope Social Hall, and charter bus at midground.]
- .115 – [Hope Social Hall, exterior]
- .116 – [Soldiers playing cards]
- .117 – [Person bent over taking a photo through their legs]
- .118 – [Soldier at desk, posters and signs on wall nearby. Person in checked shirt at left]
- .119 – [Soldiers with their personal effects (or kits) neatly laid out on cots]
- .120 – [Model train on makeshift table between lockers and cots]
- .121 – [Model train and craft supplies on makeshift table by lockers]
- .122 – [Bird's-eye view of buildings, possibly military campus. Mountains in background.]
- .123 – [Full moon over mountains, buildings (likely military) in foreground]
- .124 – [Three soldiers seated on cot]
- .125 – [Two soldiers seated on cot]
- .126 – [Two people smiling on a cot]
- .127 – [Soldier in underwear laid back on a cot and smoking a cigarette]
- .128 – [Soldier pouring liquid into a jar]
- .129 – [Distant view of a moose in the woods]
- .130 – [Tents amidst brush, midwinter army camp]
- .131 – [Soldiers in winter gear at camp]
- .132 – [Two soldiers outside tent, midwinter]
- .133 – [Uniformed soldiers amongst trees, midwinter]

- .134 – [Army tents midwinter, person at foreground]
- .135 – [Soldiers in winter gear holding camping cookware]
- .136 – [Two soldiers at winter camp, one holding cookware]
- .137 – [Sargeant kneeling next to tent, possibly with rifle]
- .138 – [Soldier J. Jones standing amongst gear and supplies at winter camp]
- .139 – [Soldier posed in winter gear at camp, soldiers in background]
- .140 – [Person skiing]
- .141 – [Soldier holding an axe near forest edge, military vehicle on the road in foreground]
- .142 – [Bird’s-eye view of landscape with horizon]
- .143 – [View down snowy, single-lane track]
- .144 – [Group of buildings, likely military campus. Mountain background]
- .145 – [Chapel with a white, picket fence and sign at right for Catholic Sunday mass]
- .146 – [People mid-game at bowling alley]
- .147 – [Four people playing card game, possibly on a train]
- .148 – [Soldiers playing chess]
- .149 – [Soldier kneeling beside personal effects (or kit) neatly laid out on cot]
- .150 – [Soldier standing beside personal effects (or kit) neatly laid out on cot]

### **B1 – Photographic Slides**

- .151 – 7-24-56. X1050 & 1051 South. Campbell, Alaska. Aboard X1052 No. [Two trains passing, person at right waving out train window]
- .152 – 7-24-56. Campbell, Alaska. X1052 North. [People standing near stopped train]
- .153 – ARR 562 (2-8-0) Birchwood, AK. 1958. By W.A. Gibson Jr. [Rusted train in overgrowth]
- .154 – ARR 556 (2-8-0) Birchwood, AK. JUN 1958 [Old train in overgrowth]
- .155 – ARR 554. Anchorage 3 Feb 57. [Old train engine in snowy yard]
- .156 – ARR 551 (2-8-0) Birchwood, AK. JUN 1958. [Train engine on track, rusted scrap metal nearby]
- .157 – ARR 557 Whittier. 31 Aug 57. [Front view of train engine in shop]
- .158 – ARR 404 Whittier. 31 Aug 57. [Train with blade, buildings in background]
- .159 – US Army 4077. Anchorage 8-30-56.
- .160 – X-1514-N leaving Potter Station. Turnagain Arm. 17 March 57. [Scenic shoreline view]
- .161 – X-1514 North at M.P. 71 Turnagain Arm. 17 March 1957 [Milepost 71]
- .162 – X-1514 North Turnagain Arm. 17 March 57.
- .163 – ARR 401 Port of Whittier. 17 March 57. [Passing old engine, midwinter]
- .164 – ARR 561 Seward. 1 June 57. [Train with boxcars, old equipment at left]
- .165 – 1074 & 1069 & train. Anchorage 9-2-56 [See also B2024.003.1]
- .166 – Engineer’s side Cab 1074. Anchorage 9-2-56.
- .167 – Moose cow from Cab 1074 approx. 15 miles north of Anchorage. 9-2-56.
- .168 – Birchwood Depot 9-2-56 [view from Cab 1074]
- .169 – ARR #5 & X1074N Anchorage 9-2-56 [Three people with cameras on train caboose]
- .170 – X-1506 at Depot. 1506-1503-1501-1508. Portage. 14 Apr 57. [Train pulling into Portage Depot, snowy mountain background]
- .171 – X-1506-N leaves Cab 1069. Portage 14 Apr 57. [Vehicles at left, mountain background]

- .172 – Put W.A. Gibson by tent. Camp Denali, Alaska. 3 Nov 56. By S.J. Ogrocki. [Soldier posed outside snowy tent holding rifle]
- .173 – X-1510-S Turnagain Arm 14 Apr 57. [View down parallel train tracks and road]
- .174 – Interior car 5. ARR Parlor – Ob. Palmer 9-2-56. [two people seated at right]
- .175 – X-1510-S at Depot. Anchorage 14 Apr 57
- .176 – 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge over Knik River 9-2-56 [view out window]
- .177 – ARR 1031 switching #8 “The Midnite Sun” Anchorage 11 Mar 57 [Distant winter view, city outline]
- .178 – ARR 51 & 50. Note 50’s whistle. Anchorage 23 March 57 [at yard]
- .179 – 1031 & #7, Anchorage 11 March 57 [building at left]
- .180 – ARR #3 1001 – 65 – 89 – 38, Anchorage 11 Mar 57 [ARR 1001 with snowblade]
- .181 – #3 leaving. 1001 – 65 – 89 – 38, Anchorage 11 Mar 57 [back end of ARR 1001]
- .182 – ARR 1201 & Seward depot, 1 June 57
- .183 – JUL 04 [ARR 2006, scenic]
- .184 – JUL 04 [ARR 3011, crossing sign in foreground]
- .185 – JUL 04 [ARR 4323 with 3015 at depot, city background]
- .186 – 23 [ARR 3011 with 3009 crossing bridge, front view]
- .187 – JUL 04 [ARR 3010, people in camp chairs at left, uniformed person at right with switch]
- .188 – JUL 04 [Distant view of ARR 3011, scenic mountain background]
- .189 – [Scenic view of train, possibly at Turnagain Arm]
- .190 – [Group (possibly tourists) next to ARR boxcars with faded Centennial logo. Likely June or July 2004]
- .191 – JUN 04 [Faded United States Department of the Interior Mine Rescue boxcar 5.
- .192 – JUN 04 [View between stationary tourism trains, McKinley Explorer on right]
- .193 – JUN 04 [ARR 1069, garage at left]
- .194 – Art Gibson & 507. Fairbanks, AK. 17 JUN 2004. By Herman M. Page [Gibson beside McKinley Explorer passenger car]
- .195 – JUN 04 [Denali boxcar at the Tanana Valley Railroad Museum, Fairbanks]
- .196 – JUN 04 [Passengers aboard Tanana Valley Railroad (TVRR) Locomotive No. 1, Fairbanks]
- .197 – [People in overalls spraying hose into wheelbarrow next to Tanana Valley Railroad (TVRR) Locomotive No. 1, Fairbanks]
- .198 – [Tourists near and aboard Tanana Valley Railroad (TVRR) Locomotive No. 1]
- .199 – JUN 04 [Crooked Creek locomotive No. 67, totem poles and building with northwest coast formline design in background]
- .200 – [ARR 4320 at Nenana depot and industrial yard, Nenana Bridge in background]
- .201 – [Nenana Ice Classic watchman tower]
- .202 – [People with cameras standing in grass next to Princess Cruise observation cars]
- .203 – JUL 04 [Rotary snowplow train at Potter]
- .204 – JUL 04 [Two trains at Milepost 44.9 Grandview]
- .205 – JUL 04 [Scenic view of creek and glacier]
- .206 – JUL 04 [ARR 2002]
- .207 – JUL 04 [Interior of train depot, ticketing counter at back]



Guide written: 6 February 2025