

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Amy Valentine, Archivist

TITLE: Vida and Thurston Nye Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2025.002

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1942-1944

Extent: 1 scrapbook album

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Anchorage Photo Supply, Roger Dudley, A. Eide, Don C. Knudsen, Thurston Nye, Vida Nye, Sawyers, William A. Wallace

Administrative/Biographical History:

Vida Nye arrived in Anchorage in 1942 with her husband, Thurston Nye. The couple had been living in Toledo, Oregon, where Thurston worked at the sawmill. The two spent three months establishing residency in Alaska before being allowed to work; Thurston spent the three months working for alcohol supplier Milt Odom. Vida soon found work at Ft. Richardson in hangar D-47, where material for the war in the Aleutians was received and shipped out. Vida and Thurston stayed in Anchorage until 1946, when they drove out the Alaska Highway. The couple returned in 1955 and died in Anchorage, Vida in January 1978 and Thurston in August 1979.

Scope and Content Description:

Collection comprised of one scrapbook album with wooden cover. Primarily contains postcards and commercially produced photos that have been annotated by Vida, interspersed with ephemera and some original black-and-white photos. At the back of the album are two pages of pressed leaves and flowers that have been taped down. At the end of the collection are loose newspaper clippings, a Holiday photo card, and grocery receipt.

Arrangement: Original order maintained.

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:

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Preferred Citation:

Vida and Thurston Nye Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2025.2

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Collection donated by Laura Lagstrom on April 15, 2025.

Processing Note

Album disassembled for rehousing 7/11/2025.

Separated Materials

Binding string and two ephemeral items discarded; newspaper clippings photocopied onto archival paper and originals discarded 7/11/2025.

RELATED MATERIALS

B1989.014 Doris Rhodes Album Copy Prints

B1992.032 Nye-Rhodes Photograph Collection

B1993.020 Doris Rhodes Slides

B2008.033 Doris Rhodes Collection

B2010.019 Thurston M. Nye Letter

B2011.011 Doris Rhodes Scrapbooks

SUBJECTS

Anchorage / Dgheyaytnu (Alaska)

Boats and boating

Cordova (Alaska)

Fishing
Fort Richardson (Alaska)
Hunting
Hydraulic mining
Inupiat (Indigenous people) – Alaska
Juneau / Dzánti K'ihéeni (Alaska)
Kasaan / Gasa'áan (Alaska)
Ketchikan / Kichxáan (Alaska)
Lakes
Nye, Vida, 1902-1978
Palmer (Alaska)
Wild animals
World War II

Detailed Description of the Collection

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[Wooden front cover with hand painted Husky dog. Interior inscription below Alaska Thunderbird postcard:] “May you have as much pleasure looking at these as we had in making them. A Merry Christmas. Budd .r’s. The wish of Thurston & Vida, Anchorage, Alaska. Dec 1944”

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- .1 - “The Alaska flag was the choice of judges of design submitted all over Alaska from school children. The one selected was designed by a nine year old boy of a Seward school.” [Alaska’s flag postcard]
- .2 - Anchorage, Alaska “Ft. Richardson. X marks where we lived – the business section is just above the name on L Streets. 4th & 5th” [city aerial, Dena’ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .3 - 4th Ave – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide “About 4 in the afternoon in winter” [dark street scene, Dena’ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .4 - 4th Ave. E. – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide “Note the mountains. They stay snow capped all except about 2 months and even then are not bare of snow.” [street scene, Food center and Ship Creek Meat Co. businesses at left. Dena’ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .5 - Residential District – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide “Some nice homes [?] there are more just shacks” [neighborhood view, Dena’ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .6 - P-1600 33ft. Tide – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide “When we had an apt. it overlooked this scene. Only one other place in the world has a lower tide. Same scene at nite further over” [Cook Inlet shoreline, Dena’ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .7 - Wm. A. Wallace – A.F.C.S. 1-44 “We want to take the trip clear up to Circle City next summer & spend a week. Come on and go along.” [Connecting Highways of Alaska map with annotations]
- .8 - “The bear Thurston killed” [Thurston holding rifle, crouched beside dead animal in brush]
- .9 - “The Grizzly that Cliff Steadman killed. The fur was almost cream on his back.” [Thurston holding rifle, crouched beside dead animal on dirt road]

- .10 - "Note shadow. Taken at about 11:30 at nite" [Thurston holding rifle, crouched beside dead animal on dirt road]
- .11 - "At Finger Lake Resort June 1944. Some of our Dolly Vardens. My cousin & her husband > Chet & Alma Goodman" [L-R: Vida, Thurston, Chet Goodman, Alma Goodman. Vida and Alma holding fish]
- .12 - "At Finger Lake Resort June 1944. Its funny, my collars up to keep of mosquitoes not to keep warm!" [Thurston with rifle]
- .13 - "At Finger Lake Resort June 1944. Our Catch." [Vida and Thurston holding multiple fish]
- .14 - "At Finger Lake Resort June 1944. Note horse – they are very scarce – Cabins we all log ones. We fished until 12:30 – Could have fished all nite." [Vida standing alongside dirt road, horse at distance]
- .15 - Photograph approved by Theatre Censor A.D. Northern Lights N-5 "They snap & crackle clear across the sky" [aurora borealis scene]
- .16 - P-1240 Mt. McKinley "Can see from her on clear day" [aerial of Denali peak]
- .17 - "Baby seal at lunch counter" [spotted seal on deck]
- .18 - 1397: - Polar Bear on Artic Ice Floes 49039" "Our neighbors – How'd you like for a rug? Can for \$300!" [postcard]
- .19 - Alaska Ermine "Beautiful furs."
- .20 - 611. Alaskan Eagle Sawyers "Thurston has seen but not I." [Eagle at beach]
- .21 - Moose Calf, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska "Cute little heafer eh?"
- .22 - P-1633 Mt. Susitna – Anchorage "Looking across Cook Inlet from Anchorage" [scenic, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .23 - "Wonder Lake" McKinley Park #26 Anchorage Photo Supply "Where the Camp is that they are planning to rescue wrecked plane or the bodys from. On edge of Mt. McKinley." [aerial landscape, Denali National Park and Preserve]
- .24 - 1367: - When Winter is King, Alaska. 49037 "A common every day scene" [postcard, snowy river with mountain backdrop]
- .25 - 609. "Where Winter is King" Alaska Sawyers [winter, scenic]
- .26 - Looking For Seal – Alaska [people (likely Inupiat) with Umiak at floe edge, or where the open water meets the ice still attached to the shore]
- .27 - 527 – Old Kasaan – Hyda [Indigenous] Village, Prince of Wales Island near Ketchikan, Alaska 114964-N "Can see this from the steamer before getting to Ketchikan" [tinted postcard, Haida buildings and totem poles along shoreline, Gasa'áan (Kasaan)]
- .28 - Ice Formation – Alaska [ocean ice floes]
- .29 - Tom Cod Fishing In Alaska "Nome." [person (likely Inupiaq) ice fishing beside dog sled, community and buildings in background. Inupiat territory, Sitnasuaq (Nome)]
- .30 - P-1400 [Indigenous person] and his Kyak, Alaska "Saw a kyak in Juneau Museum like this" [person paddling kayak]
- .31 - P-626 [Indigenous people] Drilling Ivory and Making Mukluks "The only place in the world where ivory is carved like this – In Nome or Kotzebue." [two people (likely Inupiat) in fur parkas seated beside each other, working on different projects]
- .32 - 40 – Brailing Salmon in Alaska 5A-H2636 [tinted postcard, salmon fishing haul]
- .33 - Placer Mining in Alaska "Is a lot of this up around Fairbanks" [hydraulic mining]
- .34 - "School at Palmer in Matanuska Valley" [Palmer Territorial School at distance]

- .35 - Matanuska Valley, Alaska "Experimental Farm. But all the farms look much more prosperous than we'd expected." [haystacks in field, buildings in background]
- .36 - P-1284 Pan-American Clipper over Alaska Glaciers "The was we intent to come down on our vacation next years" [airplane over landscape]
- .37 - "Knik river between Palmer & Anchorage" [roadside view]
- .38 - Icebergs in Alaska "Are a lovely shade of blue green saw a number of these as we came up." [large ice chunks on shoreline]
- .39 - Work Of the Wind In Alaska [person peeking through tunnel leading to house door]
- .40 - P-1398 Reindeer Herd grazing on Tundra "Are all in Western & Northern part of Alaska"
- .41 - 630 Wright Whale taken at Kodiak Island (Ht. 15 ft., Width 22ft., Length 65 ft, Approx. Wt. – 250 tons) Sawyers "Some fish." [Right whale placed belly-up on wharf, Alutiiq / Sugpiaq territory, Qikertaq (Kodiak Island)]
- .42 - 479: - Two Months Old Kodiak Cub. 49041 [postcard, brown bear cub]
- .43 - 19 – Largest Kodiak Bear Ever Caught, Alaska "A little bigger than the one Thurston got!" [postcard, person standing beside upright taxidermy bear]
- .44 - "One of the dog team dogs in the 31 dog Kennel 2 blocks away from our house." [dog standing on doghouse]
- .45 - Alaska Sheep "Thurston saw these on Sheep Mt."
- .46 - Alaskan Snowdrifts "Winter Nome Alaska's main drag." [street scene, Nevada Grill building at center. Inupiat territory, Sitnasuaq (Nome)]
- .47 - Summer in the North "Summer" [street scene, Nevada Grill building at left center. Inupiat territory, Sitnasuaq (Nome)]
- .48 - "Snow scene Anchorage" [trail between winter trees, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .49 - First Avenue, - Cordova, Alaska "Got here at mid night on way up – made T. get up & go exploring town. Got our first chill of the North here." [birds eye view of street lined with buildings]
- .50 - P-92 Juneau, Alaska and Gastineau Channel "The most beautiful town we ever saw. X Douglas Juneau, Mine on hill straight across. The formation out in the water is stuff from the mine." [city aerial, Tlingit territory, Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau)]
- .51 - Court House – Anchorage, Alaska "The Federal Bldg. houses P.O. Court – all govt. offices – Telegraph office & other things [building on 4th Avenue, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .52 - Spring Break-Up On the Tanana [icy river]
- .53 - Kenai Lake near Anchorage, Alaska "The railroad runs for miles along side of this lake coming from Seward." [Dena'ina territory]
- .54 - "On Palmer road" [passenger view of highway]
- .55 - "Knik river" [truck parked near Knik River Bridge]
- .56 - "Bridge – Longest bridge in Alaska." [Knik River Bridge]

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- .57 - "Midnight in Summer Looking from Anchorage across Knik Arm of Cook Inlet to Mt. Susitna [landscape, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.58 - Anchorage Photo Supply. Lake Spenard #3 D.C.K. © "Near Anchorage – note swimmers! Are skating on it now & cutting ice for their storage plant." [scenic with floatplane, dock, and distant mountain range. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.59 - P-627 Alaska Husky "More dogs her than I ever saw, but theres more than there are people." [dog headshot]

.60 - "Semi tame bear at one of the soldier woods camps." [bear at edge of clearing]

.61 - 619 Mountain Sheep – Mt. McKinley Nat'l. Park, Alaska [Denali National Park and Preserve]

.62 - P-589 Famous Alaska Dog Team "Dog teams are still used in isolated parts of Alaska yet." [two people with dogs harnessed to sled]

.63 - Snow Freighter "Nome – Polete's is where most carved ivory comes from." [automobile with winter tracks parked near buildings, "Polet" sign at upper left]

.64 - Lake Eklutna – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide "Where bear chased us off a grand bar. As scenic a lake as you ever saw." [scenic lake view with mountains, small beached boat and person on shoreline. Dena'ina territory, Idlughet (Eklutna)]

.65 - 271. – Evening in Juneau, on the Gastenau Channel, Inside Passage, Alaska. 44616 "A fair land city! The most beautiful city we ever saw" [Alaska-Juneau Mine area marked with an "X". Tlingit territory, Dzánti K'ihéeni (Juneau)]

.66 - "Finger Lake." [view of lake, mountains at distance]

.67 - 592. – Mt. McKinley, Alaska. Photo by Roger Dudley 48782 [postcard, Denali National Park and Preserve]

.68 - "The big crane & our gal crew at 'D47' [...] Native girl from Nome. She is who got my ivory gifts for me." [Group photo at Ft. Richardson in hangar D-47. Vida on upper left beside seated person, Vida's unidentified pal on lower left beside an Indigenous woman. Outdated language used in original inscription.]

.69 - "Met Tow Motor" [four service members standing beside Vida sitting on machinery, likely Ft. Richardson]

.70 - Our shack & Ellen Nye before we moved into town." [Ellen standing in front of small house]

.71 - "Winterized – The 'Alaskan Jeep' Not such a bad idea – They sure looked queer to us for a while." [automobile]

.72 - P-1596 Public Schools – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide [school campus and buildings, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

.73 - Herd of Alaska Moose [postcard, many moose in field]

.74 - Spencer Glacier, Alaska "Saw this from the train as we came up." [glacier terminus]

.75 - 612 Cow Seals hauled out – Alaska "Over on Bering sea side." [herd of seals on rocky shoreline]

.76 - 615 Giant Spider Crab - Alaska Sawyers © "They are sure sprawly things – yd. across about. [crab laid out flat]

.77 - Alaska Willow Ptarmigan "Lots of these here – good eating."

.78 - 620 Porcupine – Alaska Sawyers [sitting in tree]

.79 - Providence Hospital – Anchorage, Alaska © A. Eide [medical facility exterior, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]

- .80 - Hotel Anchorage and Annex "We do have some nice buildings" [buildings lining street, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .81 - P-1395 Four [Indigenous people] with Sled Reindeer "Near Nome – aren't the deer funny things..." [four people (possibly Inupiat) in fur parkas with bridled reindeer]
- .82 - "Eklutna Lake – the white streak center back is Eklutna Glacier" [photo taken from boat, Dena'ina territory, Idlughet (Eklutna)]
- .83 - Anchorage, Alaska [downtown street, Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .84 - "Me, Thurston & Ellen Nye. Taken at 10:30 at night in July"
- .85 - "Our car & us on Campbell Creek road – Lakes in distance – lots of them up here." [Vida and Thurston beside automobile on dirt road]
- .86 - "Don B...lain our Calif. Cousin. Us & Howard & Ellen Nye. Taken eleven o'clock at night when we lived in Odom basement apt. Can see window of basement." [group photo near Milt Odom's place. Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- Page: Pressed wild flowers and leaf taped to scrapbook page – "Blue Lupine, Current Leaf from Eklutna Lake, Alaskan Cotton, Starr flower"
- Page: Pressed wild flowers taped to scrapbook page – "Alaskan 'fire weed,' a small wax lily. A lovely waxy flower, Columbine with bleeding heart bloom, monks hood"
- .87 - "Finger Lake – Us" [Thurston and Vida]
- .88 - "Finger Lake – Me & Alma, was hot enough for sunsuits" [Vida and Alma in side embrace]
- .89 - Seasons Greetings from Anchorage Alaska "Spring ice break up – Cook Inlet looking over to Mt. Susitna From Anchorage. Love Thurston & Vida" [holiday greeting card Dena'ina territory, Dgheyaytnu (Anchorage)]
- .90 - Northern Commercial Company Anchorage, 11/10/1944, Thurston Nye "Just grocerie list" [grocery receipt]

Newspaper clippings

- Snippet from Classified for Sale listings
- Paulsen & Shock's Liquor Store holiday advertisement, inscribed "They have such an overstock from brandy & gin & tequila that they do this often – Whiskey is what everyone drinks most"

F4

[Wooden back cover]

Guide written: July 18, 2025