

**REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

**REPOSITORY NAME:**

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**TITLE:** Alissa Crandall Photographs

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** B2017.017

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1978-1989, bulk 1978-1979

Extent: 1 box; 0.2 linear feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Alissa Crandall

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

Alissa Crandall did public relations photography for the Chugach Council Camp Fire in the 1970s, when the group sponsored swimming lessons for children in rural areas.

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of 210 black-and-white 35mm negatives and 102 prints primarily depicting people and activities in rural Alaska. There are also six images of bush pilot John Cross, presumably taken in Kotzebue in the late 1970s [.283-288]. Two drafts of stories to accompany some of the photographs are filed in the last folder. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Arranged by format, then alphabetically by location when known

**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. A lightbox may be used to view transparencies.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Alissa Crandall Photographs, Anchorage Museum, B2017.17

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Crandall in August 2017.

**SUBJECTS**

Cross, John M., 1895-1981

Camp Fire, Inc.

Rural conditions—Alaska

Aeronautics—Alaska

Trapping—Alaska

Sled dog racing – Alaska

Spring festivals—Alaska

Sea otter -- Effect of oil spills on -- Alaska -- Prince William Sound

Chuathbaluk (Alaska)

Iliamna (Alaska)

Kaltag (Alaska)

McGrath (Alaska)

Minto (Alaska)

Naknek (Alaska)

Newhalen (Alaska)

Nikolai (Alaska)

Nondalton (Alaska)

Shageluk (Alaska)

Tyonek (Alaska)

Wickersham State Historic Site (Juneau, Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

## F1

### Negatives

- .1-28 – Naknek [28 negatives with contact sheet. Cf. .245-274]
  - .1-5 – [Bill Knutsen skinning mink, January 1979]
  - .6-8 – [Bill Knutsen emptying traps]
  - .9 – [man with camera photographing photographer]
  - .10-11 – [men setting traps]
  - .12 – [King's Flying Service Piper airplane tail number N38186. Cf. .269]
  - .13 – [man setting trap]
  - .14 – [dog portrait]
  - .15 – [Bill Knutsen walking in field]
  - .16 – [sinkhole in snow]
  - .17-19 – [men setting traps]
  - .20 – [close-up of sinkhole in snow]
  - .21-22 – [carving of seal hunter]
  - .23 – [scenic of ocean]
  - .24-25 – [Bill Knutsen skinning mink]
  - .26-28 – [fox pelt on drying rack]
- .29-58 – Newhalen [30 negatives with contact sheet. See article in folder 5]
  - .29 – Ted & Mary Gerken, owners of Iliaska Lodge in Iliamna, work on menus for a fly-in trip [man and woman sitting at table with coffee cups. has print]
  - .30 – [man and woman sitting on sofa]
  - .31 – [woman sitting at table]
  - .32 – [Ted Gerken on telephone]
  - .33-34 – [Mary Gerken making beds]
  - .35 – [Ted and Mary Gerken, Ted holding dog]
  - .36-37 – [people sitting at tables in lodge dining area]
  - .38 – [exterior of lodge]
  - .39-42 – [views of Iliamna, with lodge and boats]
  - .43 – Mary Gerken, Iliaska Lodge, Iliamna [woman preparing food in kitchen. has print]
  - .44 – Connie Wasillie, helper & cook, Iliaska Lodge, Iliamna [woman preparing food in kitchen. has print]
  - .45 – Connie Wasillie, full time in summer, part time in winters, general helper and cook for Iliaska Lodge, Iliamna [has print]
  - .46 – [photo enlarger and photo processing supplies on cart in closet]
  - .47-51 – [man building sled]
  - .52 – [scenic of Iliamna River]
  - .53-54 – [exterior of old church, Newhalen]
  - .55-58 – [Newhalen cemetery with Russian Orthodox grave markers]
- .59-88 – Newhalen [30 negatives with contact sheet. See article in folder 5]
  - .59 – Gretchen Griffith, right, works with a high school student during a consumer math class [woman showing student how to use calculator. has print]
  - .60-63 – [Gretchen Griffith and student working on math problems]

- .64 – [Tom Griffith at typewriter]
- .65 – [Gretchen Griffith]
- .66-72 – [Tom and Gretchen Griffith on stairs]
- .73 – [Tom Griffith standing in classroom, students sitting at tables]
- .74 – Tom Griffith teaching science [man standing in classroom, students sitting at tables. Has print]
- .75-76 – [Tom Griffith in classroom]
- .77 – Tom Griffith teaching science, Newhalen [man standing in classroom, students sitting at tables. Has print]
- .78-80 – [Tom Griffith standing in classroom, students sitting at tables]
- .81-82 – [Gretchen Griffith and students standing around man sitting at table in classroom]
- .83 – [Gretchen Griffith and JoAnne Wassillie talking in classroom]
- .84 – Gretchen Griffith, right, talks with elementary student Elizabeth Gerken as teachers aid JoAnne Wassillie looks on. When Tom is teaching & Gretchen not, she sometimes helps out with other classes [two women talking with young girl. Has print]
- .85 – Newhalen [cemetery with Russian Orthodox grave markers in foreground, mountains in distance. Has print]
- .86-87 – [Newhalen cemetery with Russian Orthodox grave markers in foreground, mountains in distance]
- .88 – [Gretchen Griffith]
- .89-111 – Newhalen-Iliamna Carnival, March 23<sup>rd</sup> [23 negatives with contact sheet]
  - .89 – [scoreboard with names and sponsors, dated Friday March 23, probably sled dog racers]
  - .90-93 – [mushers leading dog teams over tundra at Newhalen]
  - .94 – [two snowmachines on tundra, airplane at left, buildings at right]
  - .95-96 – [two airplanes on frozen lake]
  - .97-98 – [woman preparing food, Newhalen] [At AFN 2022, woman possibly identified as ? Nicholai; At AFN 2024, individual was identified as JoAnn Wassillie rather than Nicholai and the time period as circa 1975.] [Central Yup'ik territory, Nuuriileng (Newhalen)]
  - .99 – Nick Anelon, Newhalen. He's in charge of sled dog race. Nick carved this ivory cribbage board to raffle off at the Newhalen/Iliamna spring carnival, held March 23, 24, 25, '79 [has print]
  - .100 – [view of Newhalen, with church at left]
  - .101 – [rusting hulk of truck on tundra, buildings in background]
  - .102 – [exterior of old church, Newhalen]
  - .103-105 – [young child walking on road]
    - .105 – [At AFN 2022, child possibly identified as Anelon?]
  - .106 – [people standing next to two pickup trucks parked on tundra, dog team resting at right, buildings in background]
  - .107-109 – [musher unloading dog team from pickup truck]
  - .110 – [people and dog teams on tundra, buildings in background]
  - .111 – [exterior of old church, Newhalen]

- .112-135 – Nondalton [1979. 24 negatives with contact sheet]
  - .112 – [fire-damaged school and playground]
  - .113-114 – [man sitting at desk, Nondalton, 1979] [At AFN 2025, individual identified as possibly Lance Blackwood, the principal.] [Dena’ina territory, Nundaltin (Nondalton)]
  - .115-117 – [woman sitting at desk]
  - .118-121 – [woman from .115 and young woman operating print or copy machine]
    - .120 – [two woman sitting in front of machine. At AFN 2018, identified as Agnes Cusma, left, and Eleanor Carlakoff, right]
  - .122-123 – [boys and girls playing basketball, ‘Pedro Bay Panthers’ painted on wall]
  - .124 – This new gym in Nondalton is very popular. The kids never had a gym before. It is used every night for volleyball, basketball, or wrestling. In new school gymnasium. Carpet floor [boys and girls playing basketball, ‘Nondalton Warriors’ painted on wall. Has print]
  - .125-126 – [views of Nondalton]
  - .127 – [laundry hanging on clothesline between two houses]
  - .128 – [exterior of house]
  - .129 – [house with laundry hanging on clothesline in foreground, airplane fuselage in background left, possibly the Curtiss C-46 that crashed in Nondalton in 1971]
  - .130-131 – [snowmachine pulling sled on frozen lake]
  - .132 – [boats and cache on lakeshore]
  - .133 – [view from sled of man riding snowmachine pulling sled, airplane on frozen lake ahead]
  - .134 – [view of Nondalton from frozen lake]
  - .135 – [aerial of landscape with lakes]
- .136-165 – Nondalton [30 negatives with contact sheet]
  - .136 – [Iliamna Air Taxi Cessna airplane tail number N33216 and Cessna airplane N7381K]
  - .137 – [buildings on lakeshore, one with antlers mounted on wall]
  - .138 – [aerial of lake]
  - .139-140 – [aerials of landscape?]
  - .141 – [aerial of lake]
  - .142-143 – [aerials of landscape]
  - .144 – [Ski-Doo snowmachine towing sled]
  - .145 – [two people riding Ski-Doo snowmachine pulling sled with one rider]
  - .146 – [aerial of landscape]
  - .147 – [cat sitting on stove in front of house, metal barrels at right]
  - .148 – [woman standing at stove in commercial kitchen]
  - .149-150 – [woman preparing food in commercial kitchen. At AFN 2018, identified as Irene Trefon]
  - .151-154 – [boys and girls playing basketball, ‘Nondalton Warriors’ and ‘Kokhanok Warlords’ painted on wall]
  - .155 – [exterior of new school, with American flag flying]
  - .156 – [dog standing next to outhouse]
  - .157-159 – [laundry hanging on clotheslines, possibly fish drying rack]

- .160 – [close-up of window in house]
- .161 – Nondalton, previous school. Gutted by fire just after they moved to new school, early '79 [school and playground, sign in foreground reads Nondalton Elementary and Secondary School. Has print]
- .162 – [litter of puppy dogs on snow]
- .163 – [house and cache]
- .164 – [house with old washtub on porch]
- .165 – [dog and cat on porch of house]
- .166-180 – Tanana/Telida/Shageluk [15 negatives]
  - .166-170 – [landscape scenics]
  - .171 – [man in boat deploying set net]
  - .172 – [set net in water]
  - .173-174 – [winter scenics]
  - .175 – [boots drying on camp fire]
  - .176 – [unidentified portrait.] [At AFN 2022, location identified as Hughes?; At AFN 2024, location or individual was identified as Hughes; At AFN 2025, location was suggested to be Tanana, Telida, or Shageluk and the time period as the 1970's.]
  - .177 – [unidentified portrait. At AFN 2022, individual possibly identified as Bev Madros from Holy Cross?]
  - .178 – [portrait of girl holding puppy dog. Has print with caption 'Tyonek']
  - .179 – Harvey Benjamin brings in one of his father's salmon in Shageluk [boy holding fish. Has print]
  - .180 – Rosalie Wolf, Shageluk [portrait. Has print]
- .181-210 – Telida/Kalskag/Chuathbaluk [30 negatives]
  - .181 – [aerial of radar site with radomes, Tatalina?]
  - .182-184 – [aerials of landscape]
  - .185-186 – [aerials of fish wheel in river]
  - .187 – [view of village]
  - .188 – [man putting fishing line on rod] At AFN 2024, location was suggested as up north, possibly Telida or Kalskag or Chuathbaluk, and the individual was suggested to be Athabaskan.]
  - .189 – [scenic of river, boat in foreground, person standing in background]
  - .190 – [drying racks on bank of river]
  - .191 – [aerial of village on riverbank. At AFN 2018, location identified as Upper Kalskag]
  - .192 – [close-up of bird and birdhouse]
  - .193 – [view of village with turned earth for garden and picket fence in foreground. At AFN 2018, location identified as Upper Kalskag]
  - .194 – [view of village, possibly school and playground in foreground, bell on frame in front of building, cemetery in background. At AFN 2018, location identified as Upper Kalskag, school as first one in area, still standing in 2018]
  - .195 – [cemetery with crosses and picket fences as grave markers. At AFN 2018, location identified as Upper Kalskag]
  - .196 – [view of village, with playground in foreground, hills in background]

- .197 – [log building with American flag on flagpole, dilapidated truck at left, laundry hanging on clothesline in background]
- .198 – [bird in birdcage]
- .199 – [view of village, with dog yard in right foreground, truck parked at left, snowmachine in front of drying racks at right, house in background with antlers mounted to roof]
- .200 – [dog nosing at fish carcass on beach]
- .201 – [fireweed]
- .202 – [Russian Orthodox church, laundry hanging on clothesline in foreground, Chuathbaluk]
- .203 – [snowmachines on taiga, Chuathbaluk]
- .204 – [Russian Orthodox church and cemetery, river in background, Chuathbaluk]
- .205-206 – [Russian Orthodox church and cemetery, river in background, Chuathbaluk]
- .207 – [flowers on grave in Russian Orthodox cemetery, Chuathbaluk]
- .208 – [Russian Orthodox cemetery, storage tank and buildings in background, Chuathbaluk]
- .209 – [Russian Orthodox church and cemetery, Chuathbaluk]
- .210 – [fish hanging on a line, Chuathbaluk]

## **Prints**

### **F2**

Contact sheets for negatives

### **F3**

Prints with negatives

### **F4**

Prints without negatives

- .211 – Trying out a new tent are L to R: Melissa Erickson, Leonardo Lovette III, Erica Dichter, Shane Sorenson, & Jennifer. Watching is Camp Fire after school care director Jim Schaeffer [five children peeking out of tent, with man kneeling next to it, Chugach Mountains in background, Anchorage?]
- .212 – Lady cutting fish. Ann Vanderpool in Aniak cutting salmon with ulu, July [woman cutting fish on table, roe at left]
- .213 – Trainee Annie Phillips of Chuathbaluk leads a game of “Big Toot, Little Toot” during Camp Fire recreation in her village [young woman playing game with children outdoors]
- .214 – [woman, possibly Ruth Allman, showing potlatch spoon to visitors inside House of Wickersham, Juneau]
- .215-242 – [contact sheet without negatives. Captions on verso]
  - .215-216 – [landscape aerials]
  - .217-221 – Father Jim Sylvestra tries panning for gold, Spruce Creek
  - .222 – [young girl panning for gold]
  - .223-224 – Around the airstrip at Spruce Creek
  - .225 – Mrs. O’Carrol

- .226 – Father Sylvestra
- .227 – Mike O’Carrol [Mike O’Carroll mined on Spruce Creek near Ophir]
- .228 – View from airstrip looking northeast
- .229 – The town of Ophir [aerial]
- .230 – A mining area [aerial]
- .231-232 – The Yukon [aerials of Yukon River]
- .233 – Commercial salmon fishing, Kaltag [people working on beach, with fish totes and conveyor belts to water]
- .234-235 – Scenes along the beach, Kaltag [drying racks, fish scale]
- .236 – Erle Esmailka throwing salmon in a bucket, Austin Esmailka Jr. spearing fish from boat, Dolly Solomon and Hazel Olson at table. Laurie and Jason Saunders watching at right. Kaltag [women and children working on beach, church in background. Has prints]
- .237 – Hazel Olson and Mary Lene Esmailka at table, Kaltag [i.e. Marylene Esmailka. Two women cutting fish on beach, church in background]
- .238 – L to R: Dolly Solomon, Hazel Olson (daughters) and Mary Lene Esmailka (mother), Kaltag [three women cutting fish on beach, drying racks in background. Has print with caption ‘The Esmailka family cutting salmon, Kaltag’]
- .239 – Mary Lene Esmailka, left and Hazel Olson move racks. Austin Esmailka in the background watching, Kaltag [two women hanging fish on drying racks on beach. Has prints, one with caption dated July 1978]
- .240 – Clement Esmailka cuts spacers for the salmon to be spread on, Kaltag [man shaping small piece of wood. Has print]
- .241 – Salmon drying
- .242 – Mary Lene Esmailka hangs the salmon she has cut with her ulu knife, Kaltag [Has print]
- .243 – Maggie Mespelt (since deceased) & garden in McGrath, Alaska [Margaret Mespelt standing in vegetable garden in front of cabin]
- .244 – L to R: Dede Jimmie and trainees Linda Baker and Laverne Jimmie (all of Minto) enjoy a quiet canoe ride after swim lessons in Minto [three young women in boat]
- .245-274 – [Naknek, contact sheet without negatives. Cf. .1-28]
  - .245-247 – [fox pelt on drying rack]
  - .248-249 – [view along shoreline to cannery buildings]
  - .250 – [scenic of Naknek River]
  - .251 – [view along shoreline to cannery buildings]
  - .252-253 – [Bill Knutsen skinning mink next to fox pelt on drying rack]
  - .254 – Bill Knutsen skins a mink while a fox (inside out) dries in the foreground, Naknek [Has prints, one dated January 1979]
  - .255-256 – [Bill Knutsen skinning mink]
  - .257 – [two geese]
  - .258 – [building with water barrels on frames on left]
  - .259-260 – [view down road to excavator digging near beach]
  - .261 – [close-up of bow of overturned boat]
  - .262 – [boat on beach]
  - .263 – [pile of fishing nets]

- .264 – [view down street in Naknek]
- .265-266 – [Naknek Lutheran Church]
- .267 – [view of Naknek with automobile, buildings]
- .268 – [truck parked outside Bristol Bay Borough Volunteer Fire Department]
- .269 – [man getting into King’s Flying Service Piper airplane tail number N38186]
- .270 – [pilot in cockpit of airplane]
- .271 – [passengers debarking from bus at airstrip]
- .272 – [passengers boarding airplane]
- .273 – [school bus and airplane at airstrip]
- .274 – [fish nets on rack next to building]
- .275 – Tamara in Nikolai [girl sitting on rocking horse eating pilot bread. At AFN 2018, identified as Tamara Alexia Roberts]
- .276 – Learning to swim, Nikolai [men and boys walking through taiga. At AFN 2018, identified as left to right: last name Webb, unknown, Tamara Alexia Roberts, Neil Petruska, unknown, Sam Esai]
- .277 – Rosalie Wulf and another Shageluk youngster, Betty Dutchman, show one of the puppies in town [two girls posed with puppy dog]
- .278 – In Shageluk: Camp Fire staff member Judy Brookhiser, sitting; Camp Fire staff member Nancy Kommer, standing; Harvey Benjamin with headband, Tommy Dutchman with dog; Susan Miller hiding behind Nancy; Rosalie Wulf at right [woman and children playing with ball in trees]
- .279 – Shageluk [semi-subterranean dwelling]
- .280 – Punky Standifer, learning to swim, Tyonek
- .281 – Right, David Standifer Jr. (“Danny” with dark dog. He was the winner), left, Sharon Standifer (with light dog) at the start of the dog sled races for kids in Tyonek during their winter carnival in March 9, 10, 11, ’78 [two children on small sleds being pulled by single dog, spectators in background]
- .282 – Otter recovering from Exxon Valdez oil spill, Valdez, AK [otter in cage, 1989]
- .283 – [portrait of John M. Cross]
- .284 – [John M. Cross sitting on sofa]
- .285 – [John M. Cross sitting on sofa]
- .286 – [John M. Cross sitting on sofa showing pilot logs]
- .287 – [John M. Cross sitting on sofa looking through pilot logs]
- .288 – [open page of pilot log, flights dated July 1937, signed by John M. Cross]

## **F5**

### **Ephemera**

- “Dream of a lifetime.” Photos by Alissa Crandall, story by Lee Damron and Alissa Crandall [to accompany images .29-58]
- “Two persons, one job.” Photos by Alissa Crandall, story by Lee Damron and Alissa Crandall [to accompany images .59-84]

Guide updated: October 10, 2019; November 3, 2022; December 14, 2022; April 20, 2026