

McCutcheon photos chart Alaska history

The Archives of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art recently received a gift from local photographer Steve McCutcheon, including his files of more than 50,000 black and white photo negatives.

The negatives date from 1946 to the present and include images from throughout Alaska, with particular emphasis on the oil industry, fishing and timber. Among them are photographs of the Alaska Constitutional Convention (Fairbanks, 1955-56), to which McCutcheon was a delegate at large and served as chairman of the Legislative Branch Committee.

Other major subjects are highway construction, recreation, education, politicians, geology, Alaska's Native peoples, Anchorage, other Alaska communities, the 1964 earthquake and other catastrophes.

Accompanying the archival material is a miscellaneous collection of artifacts gathered throughout Alaska during McCutcheon's travels.

Of particular interest is a variety of St. Lawrence Island artifacts, including a set of 19th century unusual wooden household utensils from an abandoned village site.



Among the photographs in the McCutcheon Collection is the Three-Frog Totem on Shakes Island in Wrangell, June 1959.



Frank Peratrovich was the first vice president of the constitutional convention.

photos courtesy Anchorage Museum of History and Art