



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Peratrovich family papers, 1929-2001

by Nathan Sowry

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center
<b>Creators:</b>	Peratrovich, Elizabeth, 1911-1958 Peratrovich, Roy, Sr., 1908-1989
<b>Title:</b>	Peratrovich family papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1929-2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	1939-2001
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.42 linear feet
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Peratrovich family papers include correspondence, personal papers, and newsclippings related to civil rights work done by Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich in Alaska in the mid-twentieth century.
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Roy Peratrovich, Jr., in 2001.

### Separated Materials

A bust of Elizabeth Peratrovich made of cast bronze on a walnut wood base, sculpted by her son Roy Peratrovich, Jr., was gifted to the NMAI along with the Peratrovich family papers. The bust was assigned object number 25/5195, and is housed with the NMAI Object Collections.

### Related Material

A similar manuscript holding, absent the two CDs of audio recordings, is held at the Alaska State Library Historical Collections in Juneau, Alaska, as MS 129: Peratrovich Family Papers.

### Processing Information

Processed by Nathan Sowry, Reference Archivist in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Peratrovich family papers, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

## Conditions Governing Access

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: [nmaiarchives@si.edu](mailto:nmaiarchives@si.edu)).

## Ownership & Literary Rights

Permission to publish or broadcast materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to [nmaiarchives@si.edu](mailto:nmaiarchives@si.edu).

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## Biographical Note

Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich (1911-1958) and her husband Roy Peratrovich, Sr. (1908-1989), both members of the Tlingit nation, were prominent civil rights activists in Alaska. They worked on behalf of Alaska natives, advocating for equality of all citizens, regardless of race. Both were influential in this work, with Elizabeth being credited with the passage of the 1945 Anti-Discrimination Act, and later honored posthumously by the Alaska Legislature when February 16 was established as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. Both Elizabeth and Roy additionally served as leaders of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood, promoting native rights and culture. After Elizabeth's death in 1958, Roy continued his and his wife's advocacy for Alaska natives, as he worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 38 years, eventually becoming superintendent of the BIA office in Anchorage.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Peratrovich family papers include correspondence, personal papers, and newsclippings related to civil rights work done by Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich, Sr. in Alaska circa 1940-1960. Particular materials include draft legislation related to the 1945 Alaska anti-discrimination law providing for equal accommodation privileges to all citizens, the 1988 establishment of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich Day (February 16) in Alaska, and activities by Elizabeth and Roy on behalf of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood organizations. In addition to manuscript materials, two CDs of audio recordings include radio interviews about the life and work of Elizabeth. Most of the materials in this collection are photocopies made by Roy Peratrovich, Sr.

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## Arrangement

The materials in this collection were removed from three-ring binders and placed in 7 folders. Original order was maintained.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Alaska Natives--Civil rights--History--20th century  
Indians of North America--Civil Rights  
Race discrimination--Law and legislation

Cultures:

Tlingit

Names:

Alaska Native Brotherhood.  
Alaska Native Sisterhood.  
Peratrovich, Elizabeth, 1911-1958  
Peratrovich, Roy, Sr., 1908-1989

Geographic Names:

Alaska

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## Container Listing

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|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Biographical information, awards, and photocopies of photographs, 1929-1987  |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Correspondence, papers, newsclippings, 1939-1958   |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Correspondence, papers, newsclippings, 1958-1988   |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Correspondence, papers, newsclippings, 1988-1989   |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Correspondence, papers, newsclippings, 1990-1992   |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Correspondence, papers, newsclippings, 1993-2001   |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Audio recordings of radio interviews, 1989, 1995<br>This folder contains two audio CDs. The first recording is a KTOO Radio Interview of an Elizabeth Peratrovich Tribute, recorded on February 13, 1989, and is 30 minutes, 55 seconds in length. The second recording is an Alaska Public Radio Interview of an Elizabeth Peratrovich Tribute, recorded on February 16, 1995, and is 15 minutes, 49 seconds in length. |