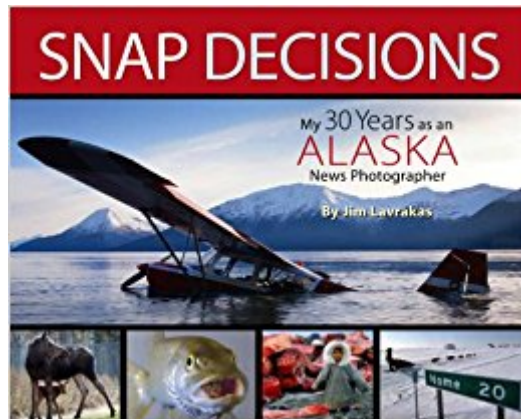


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# Snap Decisions: My Thirty Years As An Alaska News Photographer



## Synopsis

SNAP DECISIONS is an illustrated Alaska memoir of a raw but talented "street shooter" who chases ambulances in pursuit of sorrow and grief before maturing into a veteran photojournalist at the Anchorage Daily News, where he shares a Pulitzer Prize. In his three decades at the newspaper Jim Lavrakas covered the mighty and the meek in Alaska's biggest city and traveled across the state photographing an astonishing diversity of northern people, remote places, and wilderness lifestyles from the waning years of the oil boom to the rise of Sarah Palin.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,771,142 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #326 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Artists' Books](#) #864 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism](#) #4116 in [Books > Travel > United States > West > Pacific](#)

## Customer Reviews

Jim Lavrakas's SNAP DECISIONS is the kind of book you don't want to miss. Lavrakas portrays about 30 years of Alaska news, events, scenics, and people in unforgettable images. He knows his audience and the photographs tell Alaska's stories. Lavrakas's photos are surprising in that he captured so very much of what was going on and who was doing it. It's amazing one photojournalist was able to be on the scene as he was, past law enforcement barriers, or in one case - just happening to be at the aquarium to capture a Pike with the baby trout in his mouth. SNAP DECISIONS is a collection Alaskans and those who care about Alaska should not be without. As someone passionate about photography, I appreciate how this photojournalist was able to capture the news in vivid detail and in ways no one else could. These were the images that greeted many of us in our Anchorage Daily News papers, that became associated with life as we knew it. Thanks to SNAP DECISIONS, we can refresh and revisit those images, and share with our families and

visiting friends. Everyone who has seen my copy, wants one--it's just that kind of book. A small investment to own a collection this valuable, I think. Exceptional book!!!

We Alaskans who've been enjoying Jim Lavrakas' photos for decades know that he's simply one of the best shooters around. "Snap Decisions" is a great showcase of his work, from gritty on-scene news shots to marvelous portraits to the astonishing final image of a hapless rainbow trout fingerling in the maw of a northern pike. It's a terrific book, and what makes it even better are Jim's brief stories about where each image came from and what inspired it.

Each compelling photograph in Jim Lavrakas' "Snap Decisions" tells an amazing story of life in the great state of Alaska. The accompanying text helps to explain the sometimes startling, sometimes comical, and always fascinating photos. Each page held my full attention but also made me excited about turning the page to see what was next. I really enjoyed the diversity of the subjects and also getting an "insider's" perspective of what was often front page news. I felt like I was getting a backstage pass to some very important event's in our state's history. A great gift for anyone who lives in, has lived in, or is just plain intrigued by Alaska.

Lavrakus documents his love of photography during his years as a news photographer for the ADN by showing his excellent photographs organized by themes and articulated by intriguing story-telling documentation. His prose is insightful and compelling and it kept me looking forward to the next little, or great, adventure in the series. Here is a talented photographer who indeed loved his work and produced great work.

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