CAPE ST.ELIAS LIGHT STATION, ALASKA.

Photographic Record
of Construction
Season of 1915,
From June 1 to September 1, 1915.

Photographs following that date are mounted on separate sheets and filed in vertical folders. See photo file.

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V. 2
Oversize

CAPE ST. ELIAS LIGHT STATION, ALASKA

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

OF

CONSTRUCTION

SEASON OF 1915

FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1915

Presented by
U.S. Coast Guard District 17

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--- 253 3347

Supt's and drafting tent, 1915.

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Same as above.

H. L. Fuller, Timekeeper & Topographer, 1915.
Photo by Finkham, Supt.

Skidding logs by trolly from bluff above site, for use in framing gravel & mixer bunker.
June 14, 1915.

Photo by Finkham, Supt.

Beginning bunker framing.
Looking W. June 14, 1915.
Photo by Dinkham, Supt.

Beginning bunker framing. Looking W. 50 feet.
June 15, 1915.
Photo by Dinkham, Supt.

NWly toward camp from beach end of East tram.
Bunk tent on future dwelling site at right.
June 15, 1915.

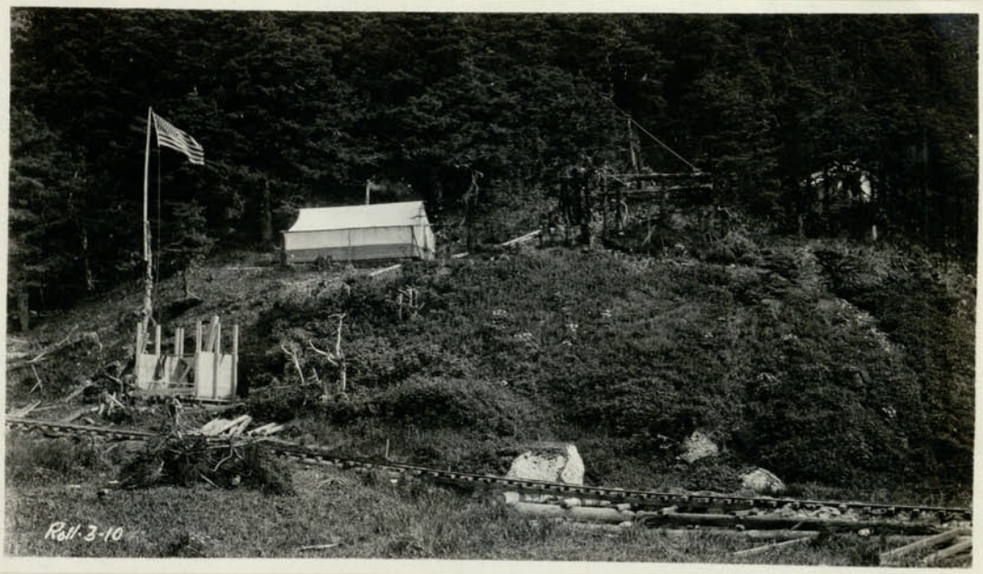
Photo by Inkham, Supt.

Pinnacle Rock at low water.
Down end of East Tram. June 15, 1915.

Photo by Inkham, Supt.

From left: Bunk Hse #1, Mess House, Temp. mess tent, meat house, temp. store shelter, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop (still used as office).

Camp, looking N., June 15, 1915.

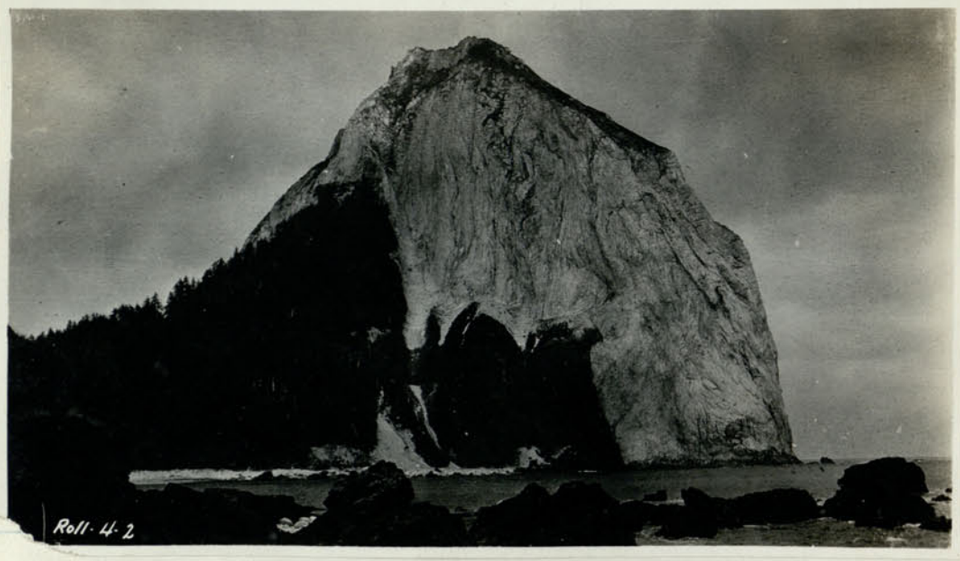


From left: Flag pole, water tank, bunk tent, bunker framing, Supt's tent. East tram in fore ground. June 15, 1915.

Station Site looking NE'ly.

Photos by Dinkham, Supt.

Pinnacle Rock at half tide.



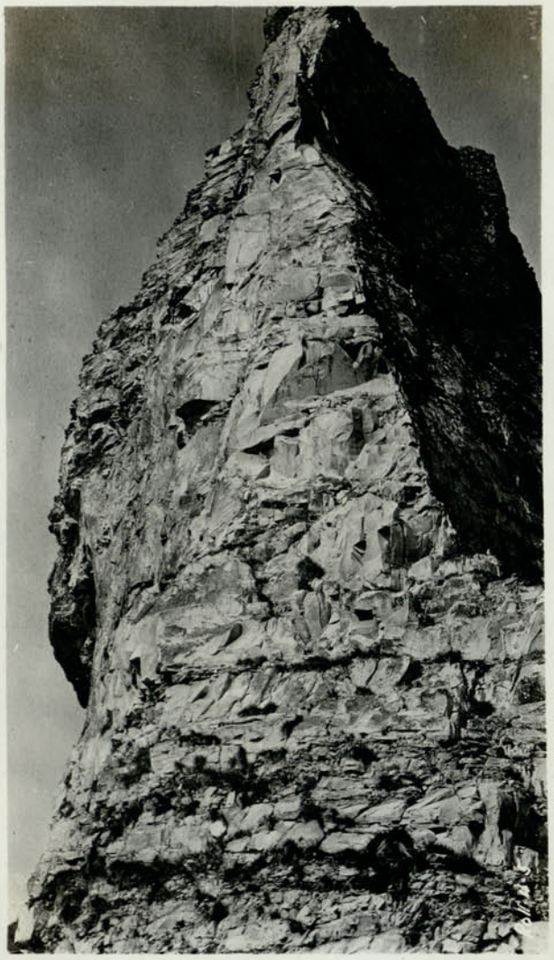
Whitestone cliff, Cape St. Elias, from Pinnacle Rock.

Photos by Smithsonian, Sept.

Rock formation, Pinnacle Rock.
June 15, 1915.

Loose rock at toe of Pinnacle Rock, S side.
Survey party at right, Cape St. Elias in background.
June 15, 1915 Photos by Tinkham Supp.

Looking up the south side of Pinnacle Rock from base of the rock.
June 15, 1915.



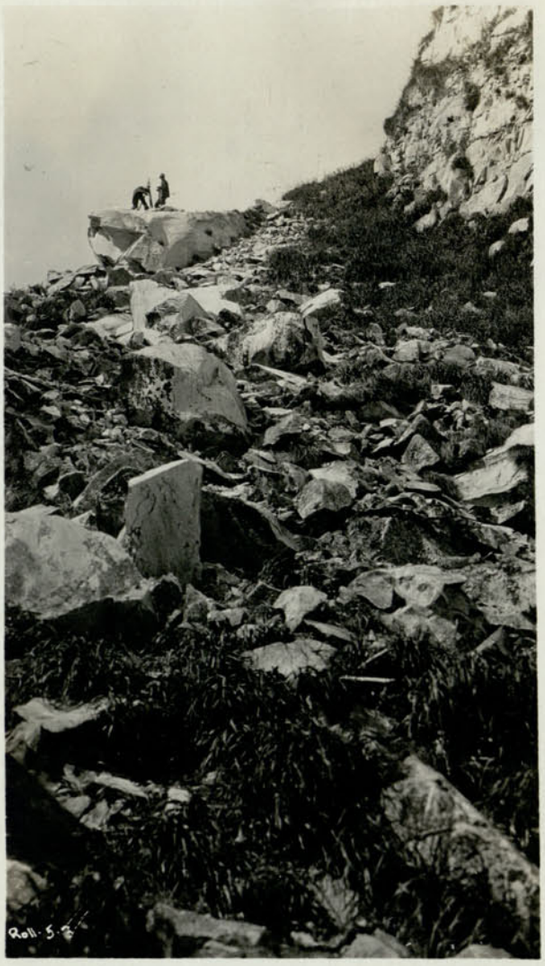
West 25 ft. June 15, 1915.
Cape St. Elias Light on south side of Pinnacle Rock.
Discontinued Sept. 7/1916.

Photos by Dinkham, Supt.

Rock formation,
Pinnacle Rock.

Cape St. Elias from Pinnacle Rock.

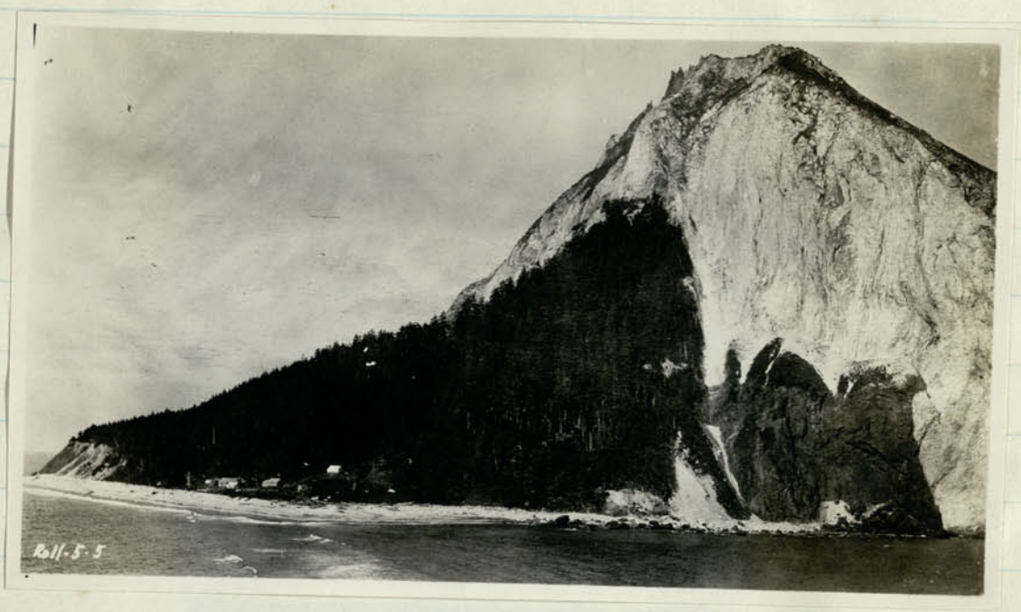
Photos by Dinkham, Rept.



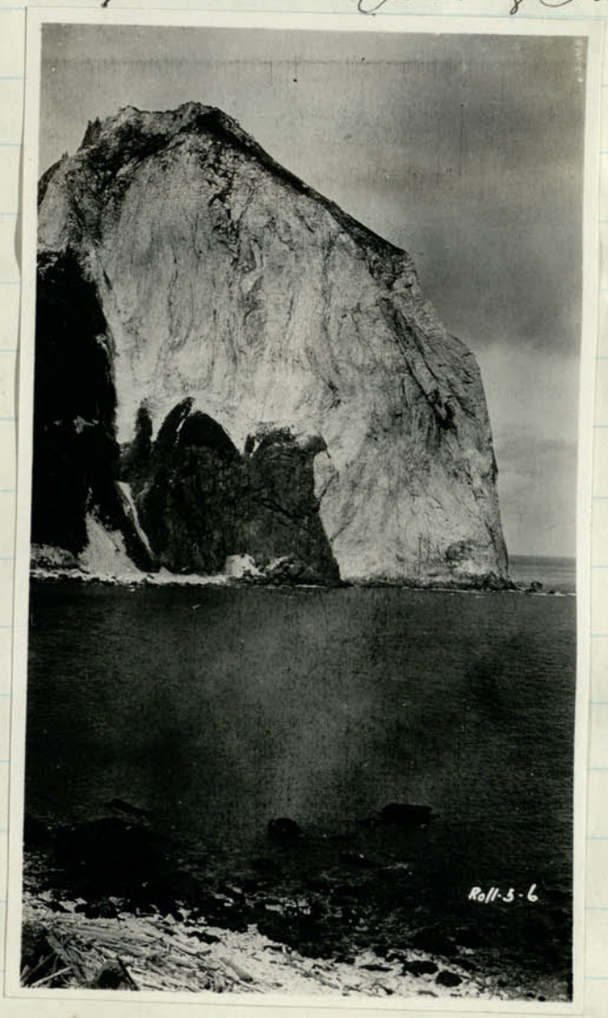
South toe of Pinnacle Rock; Survey party in background.
June 15, 1915.

Gull's nest, South toe Pinnacle Rock. These nests are so numerous that one has to pick his steps to avoid destroying them and the eggs.

Photo by Dinkham.



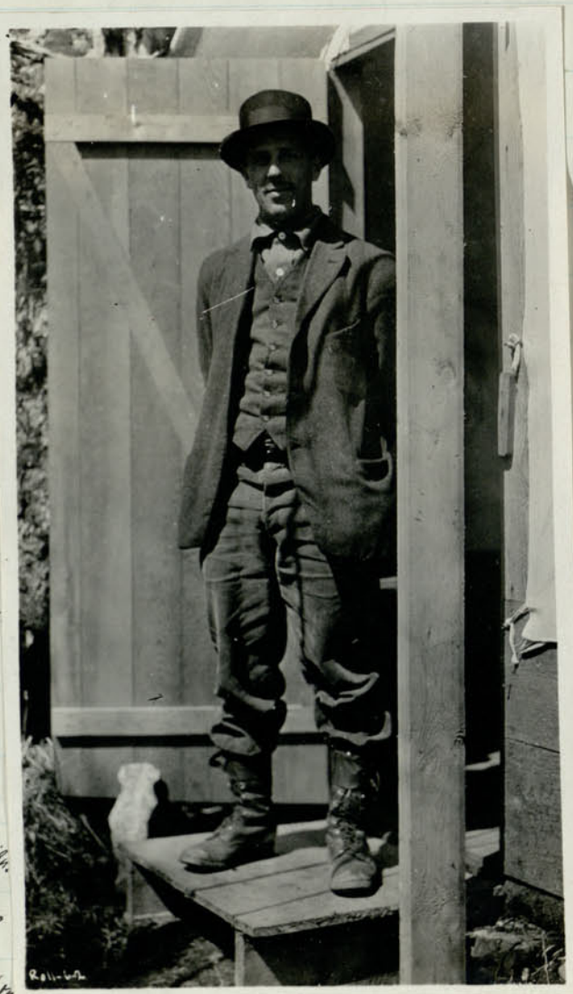
Camp and site of station, Cape St. Elias June 15, 1915.
Taken from nearest point of Pinnacle Rock.



Cape St. Elias from Pinnacle Rock.

Photos by Smithson

A log in its flight down the bluff on the cable trolley. Skidding logs for bunker and tram bents. June 16, 1915. Photo by Smithram.



F. J. Dohrer, Temporary Foreman, Cape St. Elias, 1915, 16.

F.J. Dohrer was hired in April, 1915, reported for duty May 10, 1915 at Ketchikan. Arrived at Cape St. Elias June 1, 1915 with first part of construction gang in company with the Supt. Was paid $6 per day during season 1915, but because of abuse of overtime was disallowed much of overtime credited to himself and placed on monthly basis in fall 1915 @ $140/mo. Operations closed Oct 7, 1915 for the winter. All left Cape except 2 care takers. Foreman was retained at Ketchikan during winter at miscellaneous work including some drafting in the office but for most part on utility work at Depot. Returned to Cape Apr. 15, 1916. Was relieved Sept. 1, 1916 and the work placed in charge of W. J. Wright, District Mechanician. Dohrer was an expensive man and from cost records, cost the Service approx. four times his pay. His work was generally unsatisfactory because of lack of experience which he claimed to have had, mishandling of labor and poor judgement. He would have been replaced the second season had a suitable man been available.

Operations in 1916 were expedited & more successful because all the labor was engaged for him and all details of both labor & construction so far as possible arranged by the Supt in the form of schedules, which were even then sometimes disregarded to the detriment of the work. The foremans deliberate attempt up to July 1916 to throw the work into a 3d season was frustrated by the Supt.

The Superintendent spent the first 5 weeks of 1915 season at the Cape, planning and directing the laying out and construction of camp and plant, determined locations of station structures, and completed his general designs for the structures which he decided should be constructed in 1915. He here worked out the construction details for the reinforced concrete work for the season. The Supt. arrived in the district Apr. 12, 1915 and visited Cape St. Elias May 1 to examine the site and find sand & gravel. Meanwhile construction equipment was being purchased. After returning to Ketchikan May 10, preliminary designs for tower & signal bldg. were made, except lantern and watch room which had been made by Bureau, constructed at Kenton, Ohio & for the most part inspected by the Supt before coming west. All other structures were designed by the Supt. after work began and during the season 1915.

R. R. Dinkham,
Supt., 16th District.
Taken at Cape St. Elias,
June 16, 1915.

Fuller was sent to Cape St. Elias in May to make surveys and clear grounds for camp. During season 1915 he made all surveys and executed the engineering operations at the site and served as timekeeper. When field operations closed he was transfered to the office in Ketchikan where he served 3½ months as draftsman, making most of the drawings for the completion of the station, under the supervision and direction of the Superintendent. In 1916 the Radio operator served as timekeeper, no further surveys being required.

H. L. Fuller,
Topographer and Timekeeper,
Cape St. Elias, 1915.

Pinnacle Rock

Looking S from Supt's tent, Cape St. Elias. June 16, 1915.

Launch "Triton" of B. H. Durkee (Lighterage Contractor) with lighter in tow arriving at the cape June 19, 1915. Making for the East beach for purpose of unloading.

Photo by Dinkham, Supt.

June 20, 1915. Veiw of Site from Camera Sta. on beach. showing Tram Trestle Supt's tent on right. Bunk tent on left. & water tank. East Tram in foreground.

June, 20, 1915, Camp. from Camera Sta. Carpenter & Blacksmith Shop. Mixer at foot of hill ready to go to bunker.

June. 20, 1915 - Camp from Camera. Sta. Showing Mess Tent. partly completed Mess House and Bunk House No. 1. Lumber Yard to left.

June, 21. 1915, Camp from site of Light Tower. Looking west. Concrete Mixer being hauled up the tram grade. Floors of warehouse to right of oil tank. Haze caused by smoke from clearing fires.

Looking west.

June, 21, 1915
Taken from head of north or uphill trestle. Bunk tent in foreground. Concrete Mixer being moved uphill. Lumber Yard in distance

304

June 21, 1915
Taken from top beach, west tram Looking West
Landing supplies thru the surf. Also shows first motive power used on the Cape Railway.

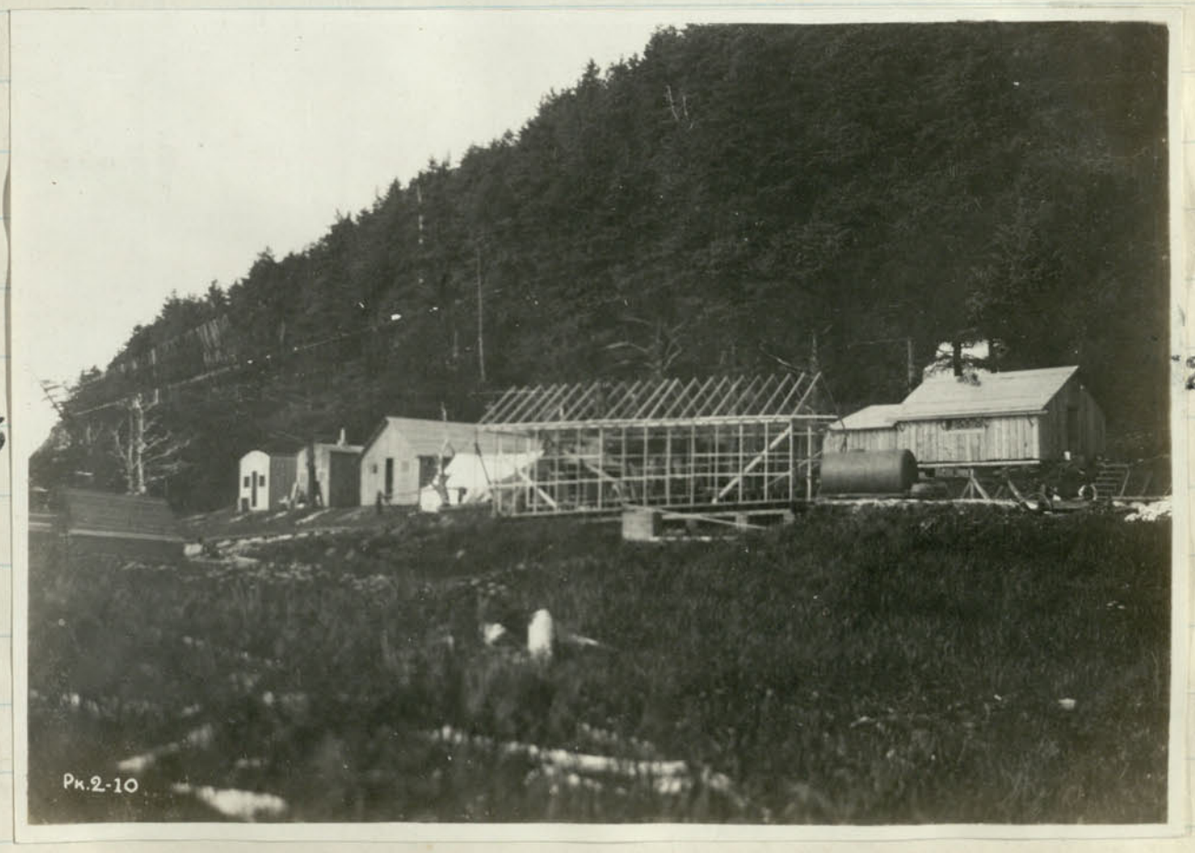
June. 21. 1915.

June 21. 1915 – Taken from site of Dwelling. Low Tide showing bare to the Pinacle.

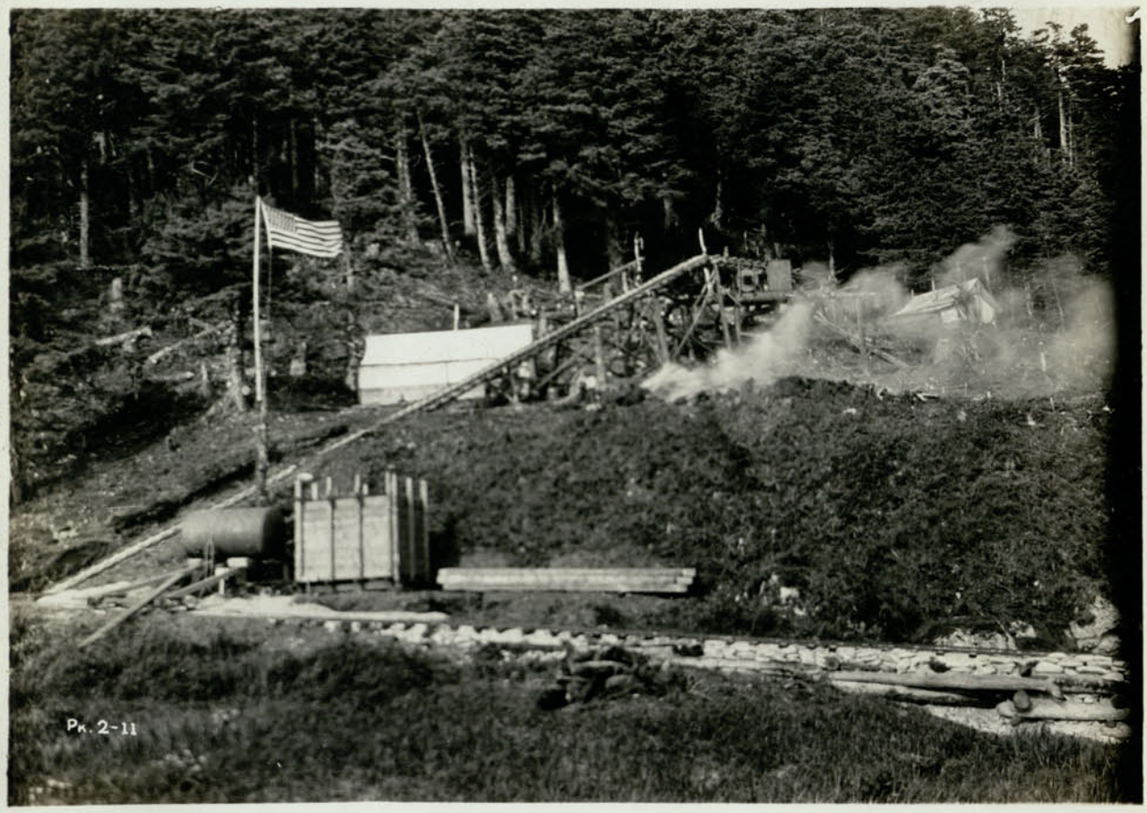
June 22, 1915. Taken from Camera Sta. Looking N.E. to site of Fog Signal & Tower & Dwelling.

Bunk Tent, Water Tank, Trestle, Gravel Bunker & Supts. Tent. East Tram in foreground.

June 22, 1915. Looking north from Camera Sta. Bunk Tent. Trams, Water Tank. Carpenter & Blacksmith Shop. Frame of warehouse.



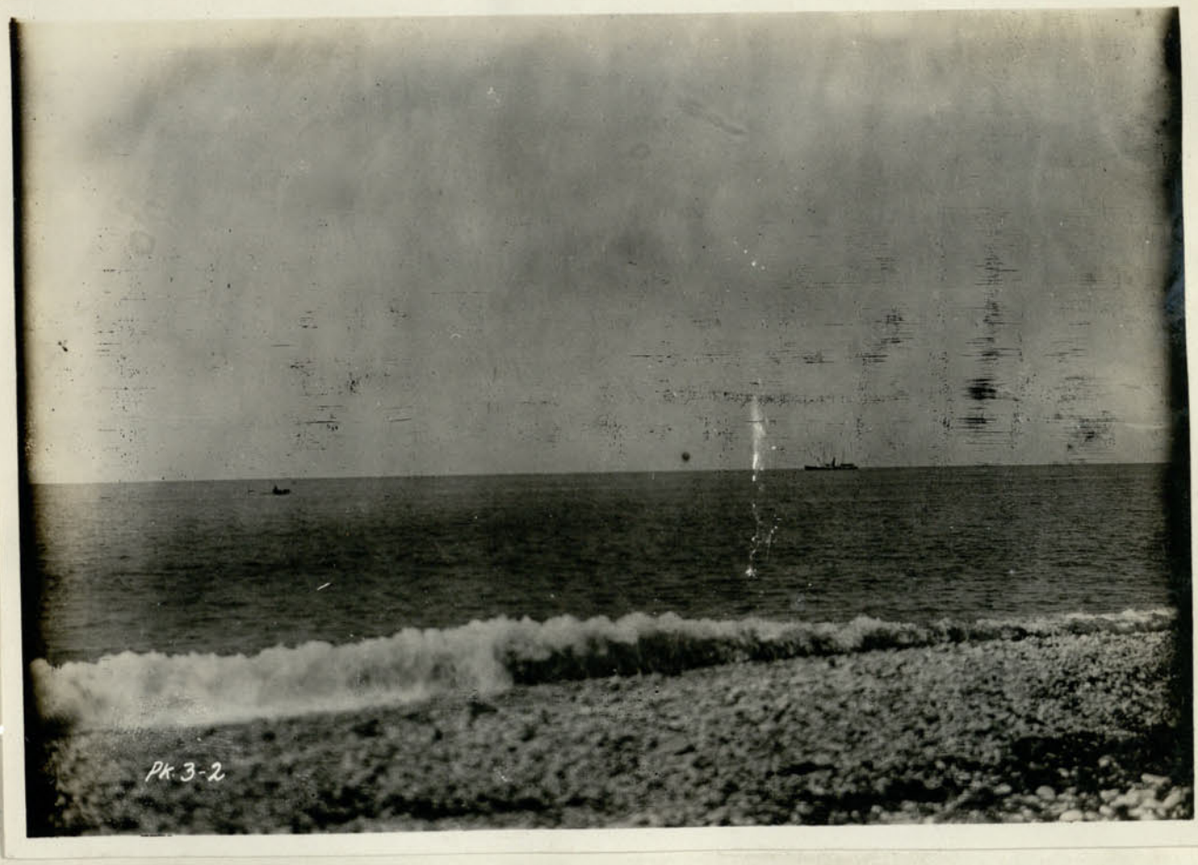
June 22, 1915 Looking N.W. from Camera Sta., Carpenter Shop, warehouse, Mess tent, Mess house & two Bunk Houses.



June 24, 1915 Looking N.E. from Camera Sta. Completed North Tram. & Mixer in position & Clearing Site.

June 24, 1915. Looking North from Camera Sta. Showing Completed Warehouse.

June, 25, 1915 - Looking South from Camera Sta. Inspector Dibrell leaving Cape St. Elias to board the tender Kukui.



June 25, 1915 Camera Sta looking west. Lighthouse Tender Kukui at anchor off Cape St Elias, her whale boat returning aboard from the Cape.

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June 26, 1915 Camera Sta looking N. E. Showing erection of Office Bldg. Plant and excavation for F. S. & Tower.

June 26, 1915. Camera Sta looking north. Showing camp.

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20 S

June 26, 1915 Camera Sta. looking N.W. view of camp.
From Left: Bunk houses No 2, No 1, Mess house, Warehouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop.

June 26, 1915 Camera Sta looking south. Screening Sand.
Pinacle Rock in distance.

View No. 1 Extreme Left.

June 28, 1915 Looking South east from site of Light Tower. toward S. E. Rock at extreme low tide.

View No. 5 to right.

June 28, 1915. Looking west from site of Fog Signal & Light. Extreme low tide showing reef.

View
No 4
to right.

June 28, 1915 Looking southwest from site of Fog Signal at extreme low tide. showing reef.

View
No. 3
to right.

June 28, 1915 Looking west from site of Fog Signal. Extreme low tide bare to the reef on west.

View
No 2
to right.

June 29. 1915 Looking south from site of Fog Signal, low tide.

July 2, 1915 From head of tram looking west. "Triton" in distance
Lighter on a reef. Men trying to work it off. Landing on West beach.

July 2, 1915. Looking west from Lumber Yard. Lighter fast on reef. Trying to dislodge & float her in to West beach.

July 2, 1915. Looking west from beach. Lighter on a rock. discharging lumber to float the lighter.

July 2, 1915 From Camera Sta looking N.E. Shows trams, office, bunkers and clearing.

July 2, 1915. Camera Sta looking north. shows temporary hoisting windlass for hauling tram cars.

July 2, 1915 From beach looking north to camp. shows wash house between Bunk Houses.

July 2, 1915 From West beach looking east toward warehouse.

July 5, 1915 - From the office looking west. Dwelling excavation in foreground. showing camp in distance

212

July 6, 1915 S.E. Cor. of Fog Signal looking north. unloading 9 Horse Power Hoist. head of tram.

July 6, 1915 - 8 PM. South East Storm looking toward Pinnacle Rock.

4-11

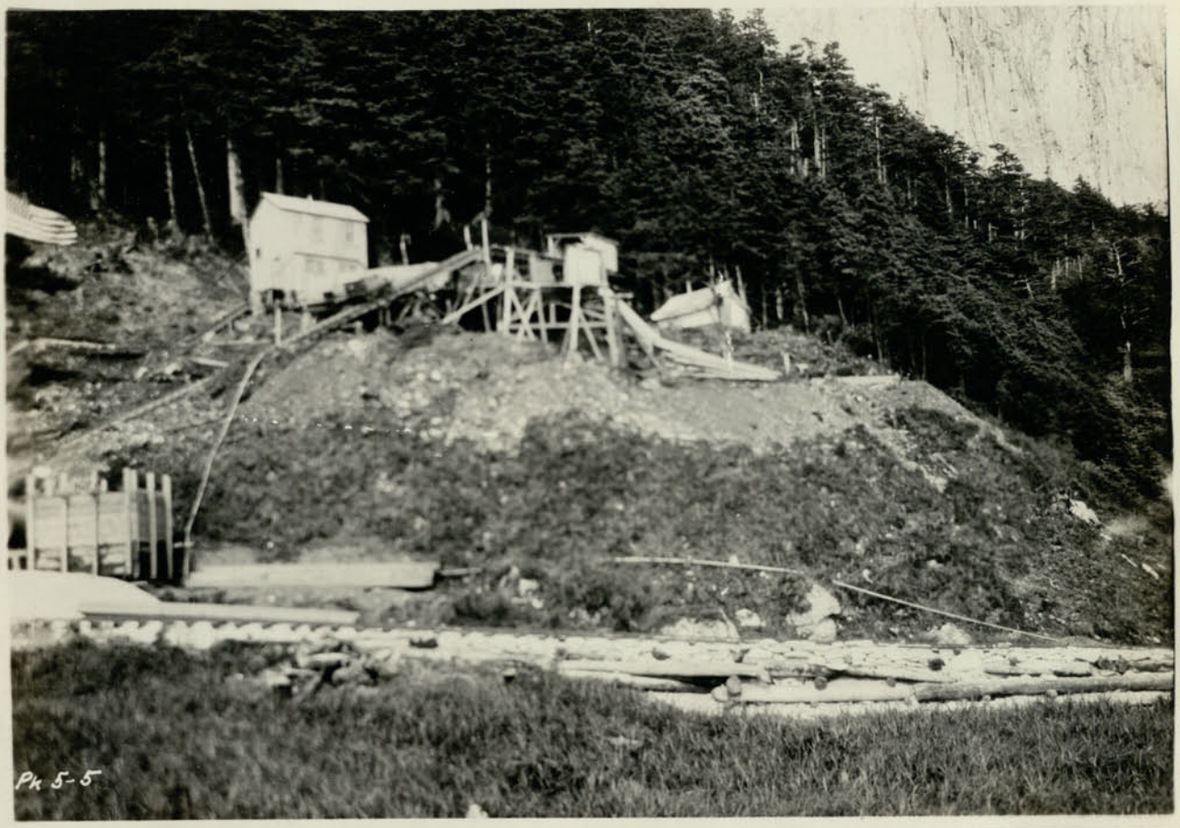
4-11 no picture

4-12

July 6, 1915 – 8 P.M. Southeast storm Cape St Elias. showing Pinacle rock.

July 6, 1915. – 8 P.M. Southeast storm Cape St Elias showing Pinacle Rock.

July 6, 1915 - 8 P.M. Southeaster at Cape St Elias.



July 10, 1915 Camera Sta looking N. E. Progress Picture showing excavation embankments from Fog Signal & Storage Bldg.

July 10, 1915 Camera Sta looking north. shows completed office and sand storage at water tank in foreground.

July 10, 1915 Camp completed. also shows engine house for 6 Horsepower Hoist.

July 10, 1915 Looking south east from watertank. shows east tram, gas boat on boat car & Pumping Plant on left.

July 10, 1915
Camera Sta.
looking east
Showing Calf's Head
Rock & ~~whitestone~~
~~or Cape St Elias~~.
and Cape St. Elias
known locally as
Whitestone.

July 10 15.
Cave in
of excavation
for Storage
Building.
under gravel
Bunker.

July 10, 1915
From Fog Signal excavation looking thru storage building excavation showing cavin under gravel bin back of cistern.

215

July 10, 1915
Looking east across Fog Signal excavation.

216

July 17, 1915
Pinacle Rock.
from cape.
showing
fog rift.
Group.
Dr. & Mrs
Paysant
Mr & Mrs
Thompson
H. S. Fuller.

July 17, 1915 Looking west along the front foundation forms of Fog Signal & Tower.

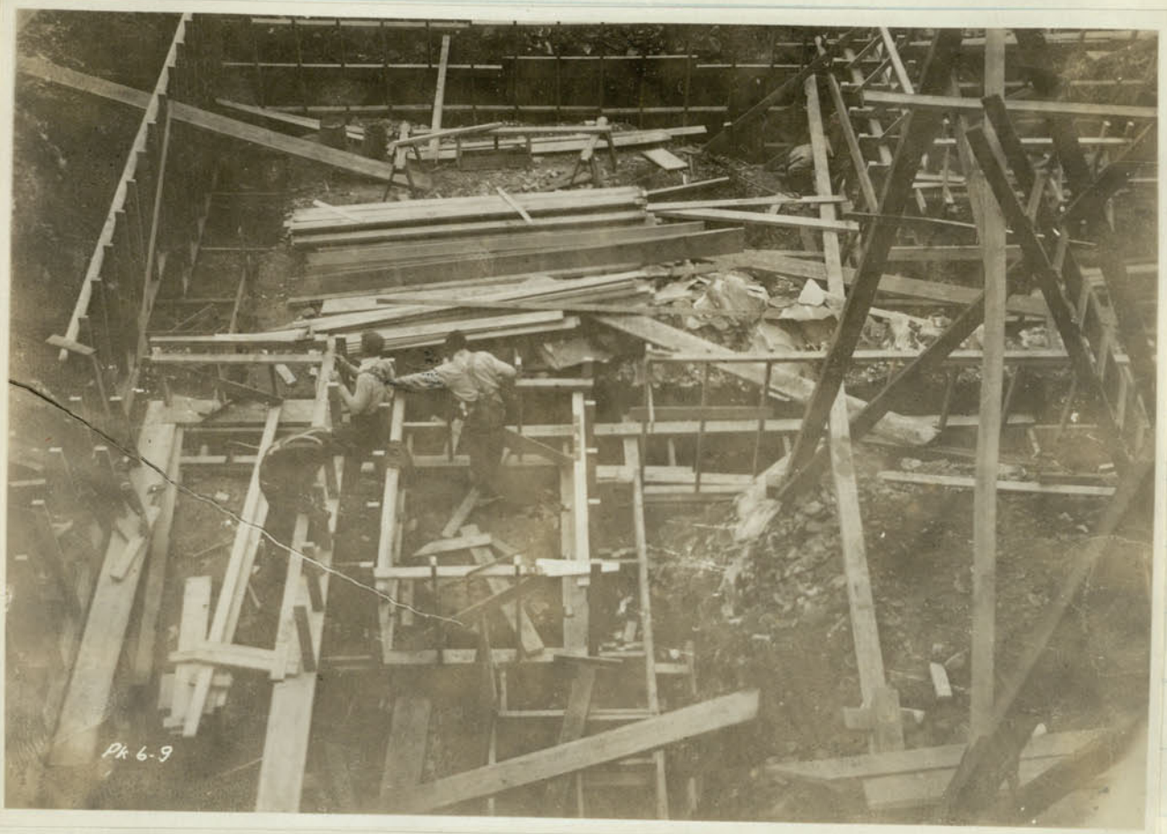
July 17, 1915 - Looking north thru storage building excavation just before cave.

July 17, 1915 Looking N. E. thru Fog Signal Excavation. Tool House in background.

July 17, 1915 Just after the cave of embankment back of cistern excavation, showing beginning to retimber upper left hand corner of crib.

July 19, 1915. Looking west along the front foundation wall of Fog Signal & Tower. also shows forms along west signal & tower wall.

July 19, 1915 Looking south from mixer on our site of rear wall of Oil House. Left foreground forms coal bin foundation. right foreground. Tank room foundation form. background Fog Signal with tower showing in right hand corner.



July 19, 1915
From S. W. Cor of Dwelling Excavation. Showing partial excavation for rear retaining wall. Brick Racks & gravel bin and office in background. It was below this excavated level we encountered all our caving trouble as we struck a large spring and gumbo here.

July 19, 1915. N. W. Cor of Dwelling Excavation before caving. Brick Racks in background. Taken from tram.

July 19, 1915 Head of tram from top of fill west of Tower. Showing gravel bunker mixer - Cement Shed on trestle + Engine House in distance - Tool House + Distributing Chutes + trestle in foreground.

July 25, 1915. Looking S. West from office. unloading gravel in bunker. Mixer on right under trestle, shows head of north tram.

July 26, 1915 - Looking west thru fog signal and tower. Ready to make first pour of concrete, in foundations.

July 26, 1915.
Looking west thru Fog Signal and Tower foundations, showing pouring chutes in position.
6.3 - 1/50

July 26, 1915. Concreting crew & carpenters. Pouring South-East corner of Fog Signal Foundations. 6.3 - 1/100

July 28, 1915.
Looking north from beach. Gin pole on tram cars in foreground. Length 65 feet diameter 18" — later used to hold Dwelling Excavation. Also shows gravel fill on east trams

6.3 — 1/75

July 28, 1915.
Timbering Dwelling Excavation
Note in later pictures this timber was pushed back and broken. Curing racks for brick above.

6.3 — 1/100.

July 28.
Looking N.E. thru
Dwelling Excavation
Brick racks + office
in background.

236

6.3 – 1/50.

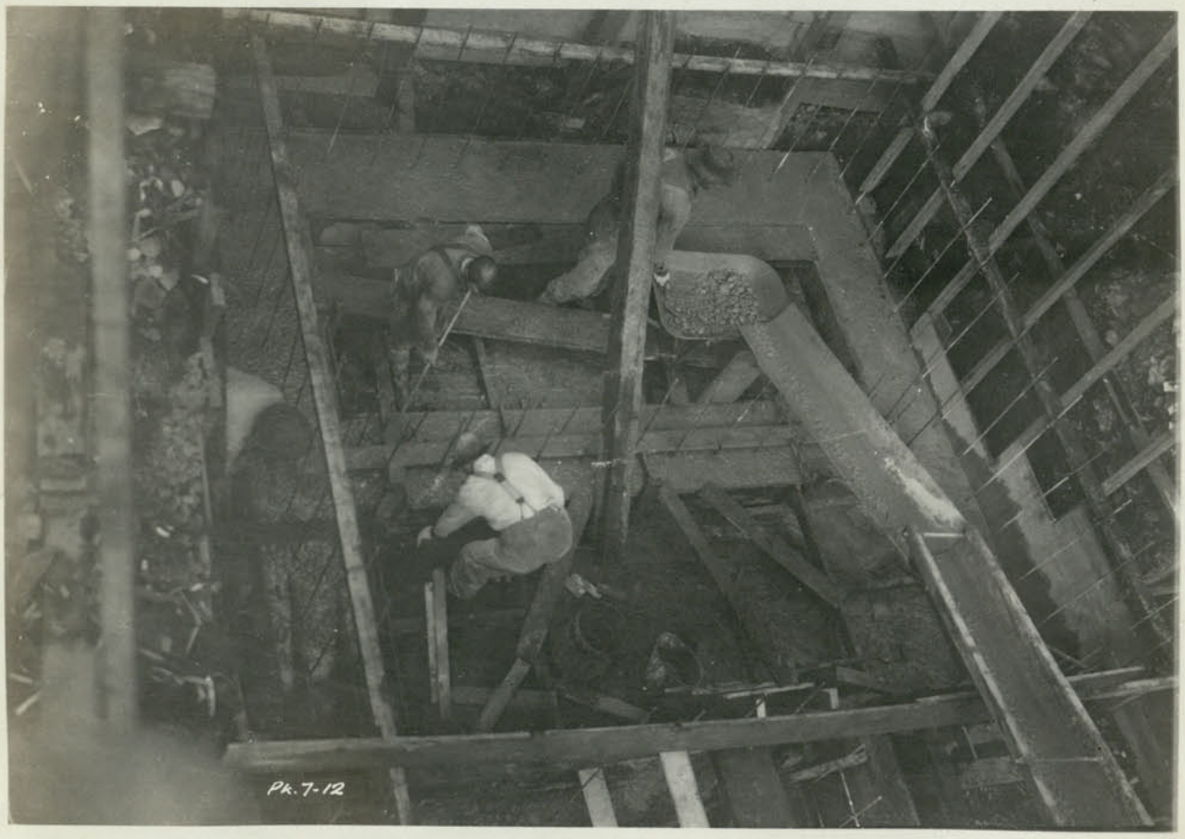
July 28, 1915
Charging the Concrete
Mixer. gravel and office
in background.

6.3 – 1/100.

July 28, 1915
Mixer Discharging.
Looking north from end of Trestle.

July 31, 1915 Looking N.E. from end of trestle. Pouring concrete footings for Cisterns, Storage Building. also shows retimbering after cave in back of cistern.

July 31, 1915. Looking north from Pouring Tower. Mixer discharging Concrete for Cistern Footings. 6.3 – 1/40



July 31 Looking north from pouring tower, Completing footings for Storage Building.

6.3 – 1/50

228

August 2. 1915. Looking west from head of tram. Cave In of Dwelling Excavation caused by heavy rains. brick packs & walks on right.

August 2, 1915
Looking west from
head of tram.
Dwelling Excavation
after cave.

229

Aug. 2, 1915.
Looking north thru
North west corner
of Dwelling. showing
cavin.

230

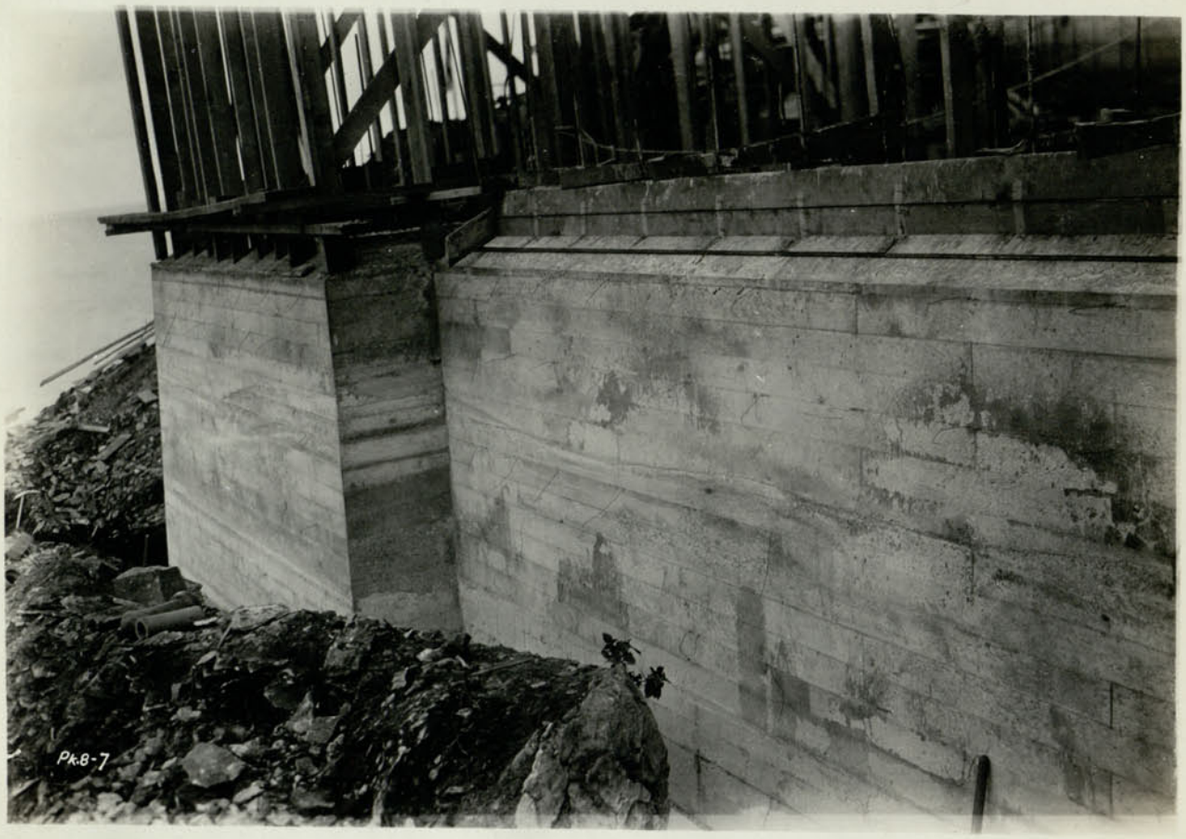
Aug 2, 1915
Looking north thru
center Dwelling
Excavation showing
cavin in to office
steps.

231

232

Aug 7, 1915 - Looking South from Light Tower. Landing Lighter of cement, lumber & supplies at east tram. Pump house in foreground Pinnacle in background. Launch Triton at anchor.

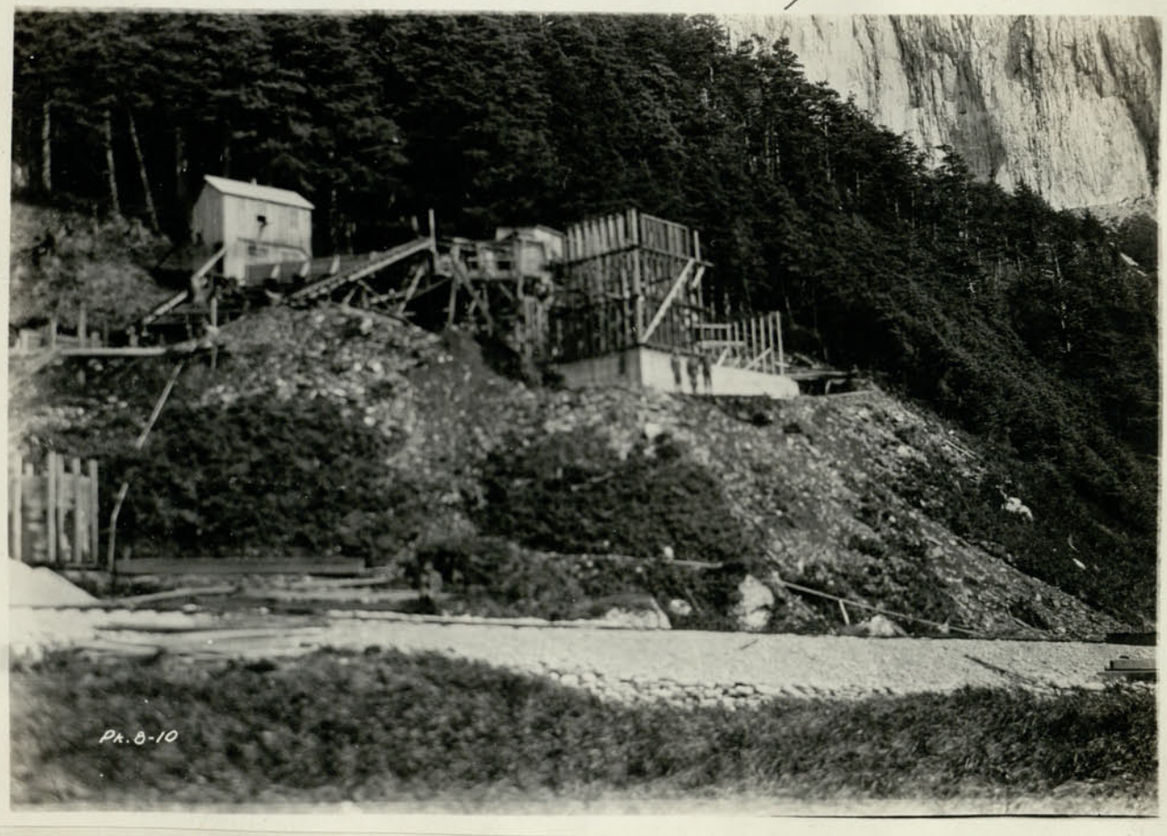
233



Aug 7.1915 Tower foundations & front of Signal building after stripping 6.3 – 1/10.

Aug 7.1915. Unloading Cement & supplies on east beach in rain.

August 13, 1915. Looking east from Camera Sta. Men on right at Cesspool Excavation. back of Pump Station Fog Signal foundation on left. White Stone in distance 6.3 - 1/50



August 13, 1915. Fog Signal & tower from Camera Sta.
6.3 - 1/50

Aug. 13, 1915 - Camp from Camera Sta. looking North East.
6.3 - 1/50

Aug 13, 1915. Southeast storm looking Southwest from east tram
note this is the same location as Pk 8-8. where scow is unloading
This storm tore out the track & cut the beach down 8 feet ~~below~~ deep.

234

Aug. 17. 1915

Cave in of timbering. Dwelling Excavation. from South westerly corner of dwelling.

Due to heavy rains saturating the banks and footings of the vertical timbers so that the heavy pressure pushed the timber out. gravel bunker in right background. office in center background.

Upper 6.3 - Exp 1/10 - Cloudy.

Photo by F. J. Dohrer. Foreman.

235

August 17. 1915 -

Dwelling cave. same position as 9-2.

Showing the timbering above the cross timber just right of the center, which shows how nearly we came to loosing the office and gravel bunker. as the cave was almost under these structures here and were saved only by quick work in catching up the ground.

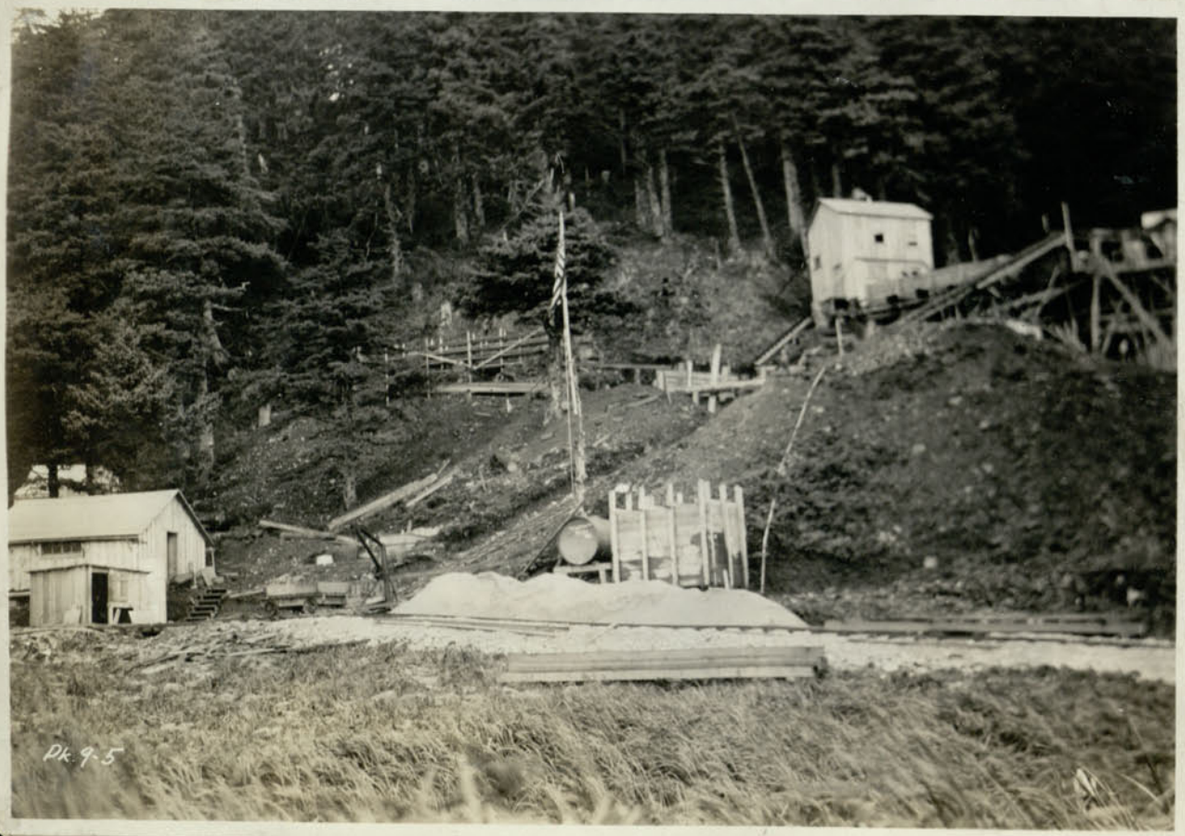
Dark wet day. 6.3 - 1/25.

Photo by Dohrer.

236

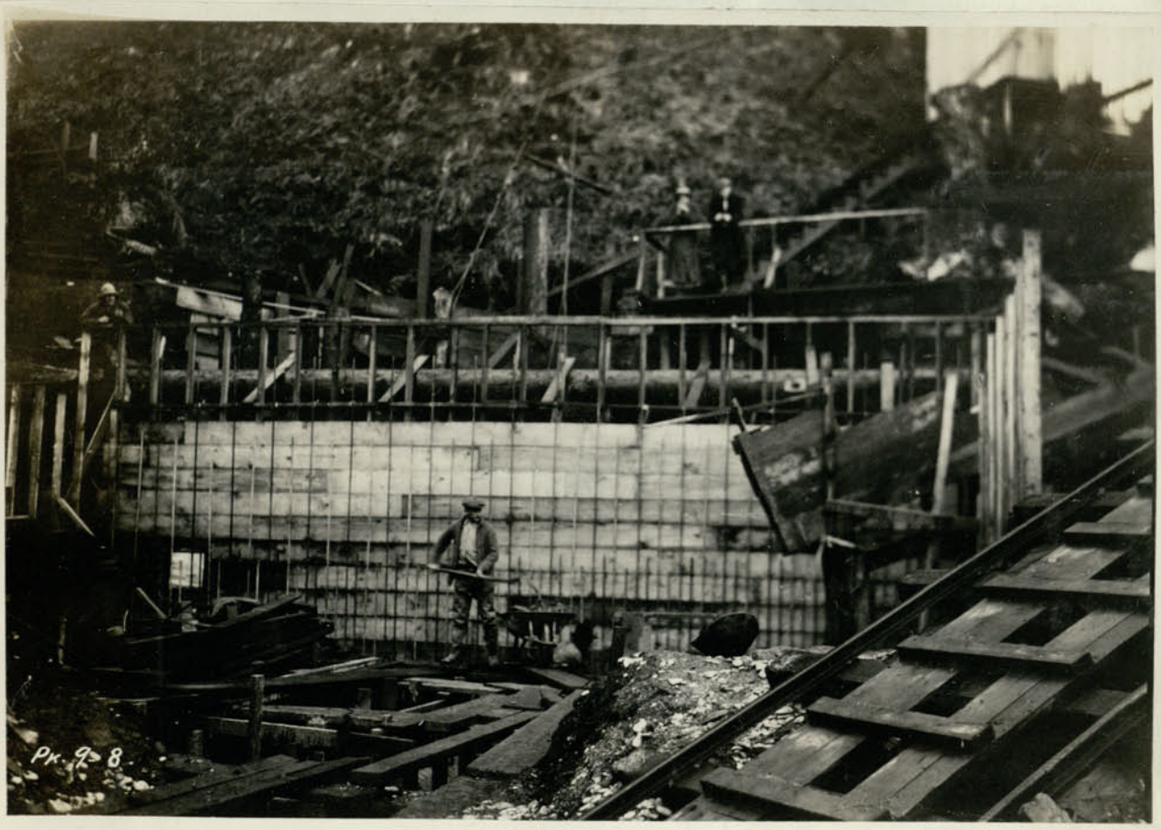
August 17, 1915 - Progress Picture North easterly from camera sta.
Extreme right, east of Fog Signal forms, ~~at~~ the waste dump excavation for oil house shows tower studding up and east wall of Fog Signal. Top of timbering, dwelling excavation left of office which shows in background

Photo by Dohrer. 6.3-1/10 Wet & Cldy.



Aug 17, 1915.
Progress showing Dwell Excavation from Camera Sta.
Photo by Dohrer
6.3-1/10.

August 23, 1915 - Breakers on west beach from top of bank.
Heavy S. E. gale. seas break from S. E & S. West at the same time here.
Photo by Wohrer. 6.3 — 1/100 Heavy weather.

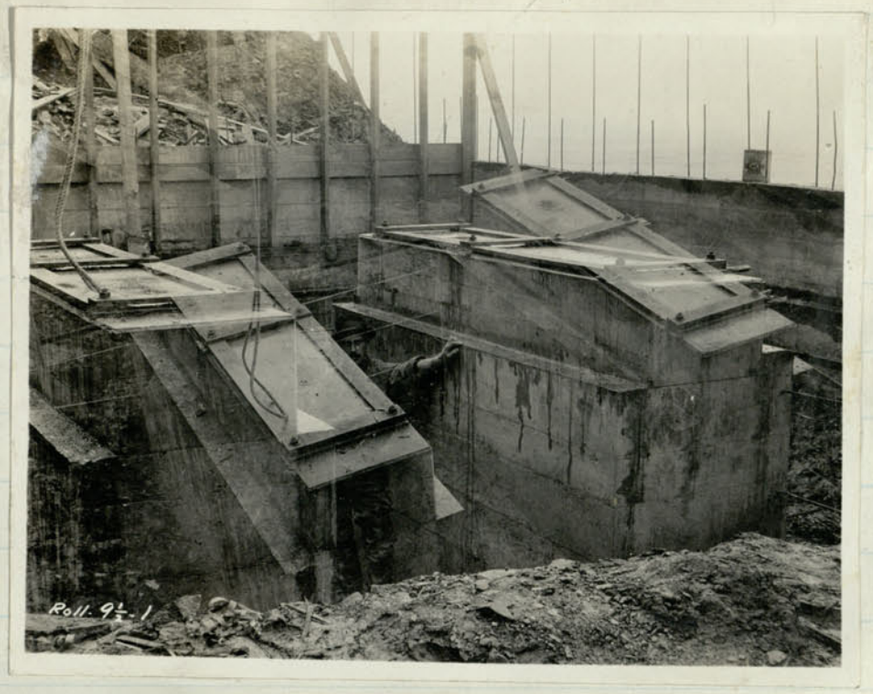


August 25, 1915. Back form & vertical 7/8 steel. Dwelling retaining wall. from south. Concrete hopper on right left & in background. men cleaning drains in foreground. heavy timber truss and posts back and above forms. Photo by Wohrer - 6.3 / 1/25 Wet & Cloudy.

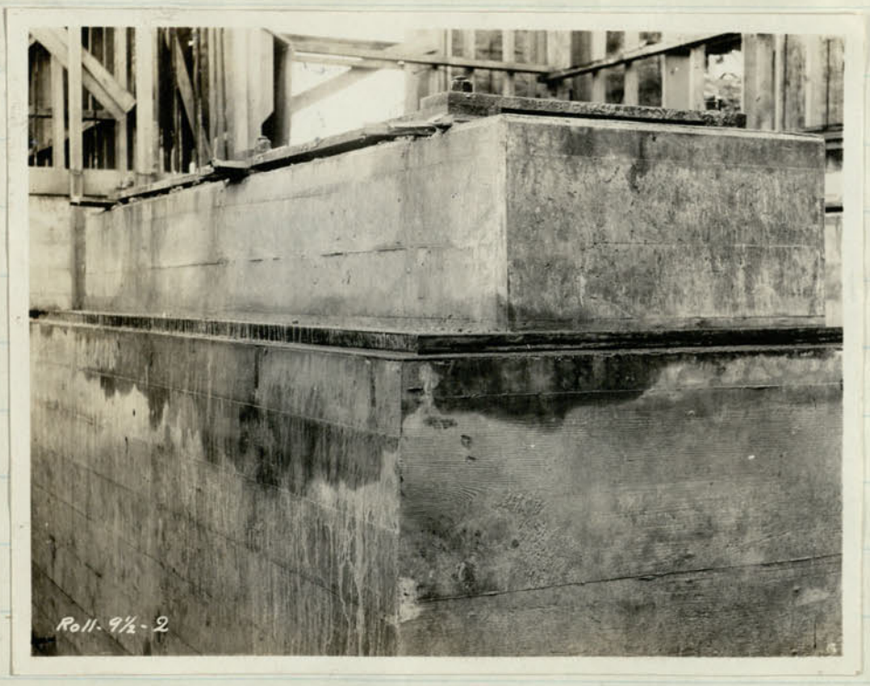
August 25, 1915
Unveling Retaining wall
showing steel in place.
Taken from easterly end of wall.
Footing form in foreground.
width of base, eight feet. height
of footing 2 feet. length of
wall 34 feet height of wall
16 feet. Thickness at top 9 inch.
Photo by Wolner. 6.3-1/5
Cloudy.

PK 9-10 - August 25, 1915
Unveling Retaining Wall.
showing footing and back wall
steel. from southerly.
P.B. Nelson - carpenter on left.
Mike Keily, behind the bars.
Scotty Hosick, on right. both
1 later men are the steel

6/3
1/10
Cldy
+wet



ung 28, 1915. Compressor Foundations, Fog signal from northwesterly. Foreman Dolner. between beds. note that there are two exposures on this film. Photo by J. E. Austin.



August 28, 1915. Compressor foundations showing angle iron in place. taken immediatly after stripping. Photo by J. E. Austin.

South Compressor foundation and walls of chase.

August. 28, 1915. Horizontal steel in cistern walls and coal house, Storage building. looking thru the coal house from the north west corner of cistern. Foreman standing on the steel, showing its rigidity and its remote chance of becoming misplaced in pouring. (This steel cost $59 per ton to place, an example of the inexperience and inefficiency of the foreman. $12 per ton would have been a fair cost. W.H. Supt.)

August 28, 1915. Placing steel in cooling tank walls. taken from the N.W. corner of cistern looking south thru cooling tank. note the completed wall form on right, thru to Fog Signal building. (Photo by J. E. Austin.) concrete beam in lower left hand side. Steel Placer Hosick in foreground.

August 28, 1915. Northeast corner of Oil House Excavation directly under gravel bunkers. This excavation is 16 feet deep in very bad ground. loose rock & blue mud. It is 28 ft. from where these men are standing to the floor of the gravel bunker. Two husky Sourdoughs. Thomas White and Frank Santry. both over 6 feet and as tough as they look. It is this type of men that has made the seasons work of 1915 a success. Photo by D. E. Austin.

To the fact that I was able to obtain an exceptional grade of labor in these able and hardworking Alaskans, native Americans for the most part, and also that I secured, the second season, efficient skilled men to take charge of the various special ends of the work without dependence on the foreman, is due in large measure the accomplishment of the work. Tom White (to right above) prevented further damage from slides by efficient lagging after the failure of the foreman's light sheathing in the excavations. Unstinted praise and full credit for their loyalty and hard work I freely give.

W. L. Dinkham, Supt.

Tom Pierce, Cook.

This good natured and irrepressible negro was the life of the camp in 1915. He had been in practically every gold camp in Alaska since 1898 and was widely known and his friends legion. He was returned to the Cape in 1916 but was in poor health, and late in May succumbed to a paralytic stroke. He was too ill to be moved until May 31 when he was sent to Katalla with two attendents and after treatments by Dr. Payzant for a few days was taken to Ketchikan and placed in the hospital under care of Dr. Dickenson. After three weeks in the hospital, Tom was practically himself again, but three days later on June 30, 1916, he was found dead in his cabin, having died by his own hand from a revolver shot.

All photographs taken following those in this book are mounted on separate sheets and filed in vertical file folders in sequence beginning with Pack #10 and ending with Pack #