

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Nabesna Gold Mine and Mill**

**Records of the Nabesna Mining Corporation, 1906-1947 (bulk 1931-1947)**

**MS 8**

28 boxes  
1.27 linear ft.

Processed By: Rodolfo Luera  
1971  
Revised: 7/5/06.gk

**ACQUISITION:** The records of the Nabesna Mining Corporation were presented to the Alaska Historical Library in 1969 by Willard Johnson of Palmer, Alaska. Acc. no. 2006-20, transferred from University of Alaska Fairbanks Archives, was added to the collection in July, 2006.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

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**PROCESSING:** Files were transferred to acid-free containers. Files are arranged in chronological order.

## Scope and Contents Note

The Nabesna Mining Corporation Records consist of 36 documents boxes of records and files primarily for the period 1931 - 1947 with some material for 1920. The material consists of correspondence, field books, blueprints, photos and miscellany relating to the operation of the Mill and the Mine as well as to the work and activities of Carl Farwell Whitham, a principal in this mining venture.

## Historical Background Note

"The Nabesna property was discovered by Carl F. Whitham in 1922 while prospecting in the district. During the summer of 1930 four men worked on the property, drifting 157 feet along the vein and sinking 30 feet vertically from the outcrop of the deposit. Some of the surface ore was concentrated by hand with the aid of a rocker.

During the winter of 1930-1931 sufficient funds were raised to buy, and install a 35-ton mill. All equipment was bought now and was freighted in during that winter with sleds and a 30-horsepower tractor from Chitina, the road to the mine not having been built at that time.

A portable sawmill was set up early in the spring of 1931 to cut local spruce lumber for the construction of the mill that operated from July 1st to September 15th, employing 22 men. In May 1932, operation continued for four months with addition to the mill built to make room for more equipment. A crew of 25 men was employed during this season with gross production for the two seasons of 1931 and 1932 approximately \$175,000.

More permanent quarters for the men were constructed in 1933 and the four months operation produced approximately \$130,000. The short operating periods each year were due to climatic conditions and the lack of a year-around water supply.

"For the winters of 1931-1932 and 1932-1933 a record was kept of the flow from a spring of water in the valley below the mill. It was decided that year-around operation would be feasible, by reclamation of sufficient water from the mill tailings and installation of a small pumping plant at the spring, and a central steam heating plant, and proper insulation of all buildings. During the summer of 1934 a pipe line 2600 feet in length was laid from the spring and pumps installed, increasing the mill capacity to 60 tons in 24 hours. Winter operation was begun during the winter of 1934-1935 and was successful except for a short shut-down from December 9th to January 21st while a broken crankshaft in the diesel was replaced. An average of 40 men have since been employed. Operations since then have been continuous except for minor shut-downs for repairs and installation of new machinery. The gross production for 1934 was approximately \$220,000, while that of 1935 was approximately \$250,000."

In 1937 the Nabesna property consisted of 36 continuous quartz claims amounting to approximately 720 acres. Several placer claims in the valley adjoining are also owned by the corporation.

"The high-grade concentrates produced during the first two seasons were taken by pack-horse to the Nabesna landing field six miles away, flown 120 miles by airplane- to Copper Center, trucked 50 miles to Chitina, then shipped by rail to Cordova and by steamship to Tacoma Smelter.

From:

Holdsworth, Philip Ross  
 THE NABESNA GOLD MINE AND MILL Seattle,  
 University of Washington, 1937. p. 3-7

In 1933 a tractor-trailor unit took the concentrates 103 miles to Gakona, 2 miles from the Richardson Highway. From Gakona they were trucked and shipped as before. Since the completion of the road to the mine in the fall of 1933, concentrates have been trucked to Valdez or Chitina, depending on the season, and shipped from those points to the Tacoma Smelter.

The total gross production of the Nabesna mill from the beginning of milling operations in July, 1931, up to January 1st, 1937, was approximately \$965,000.

### Inventory

MS 8-1 Business Correspondence is arranged in chronological order by year only.

Business Correspondence.

- Box 1**
1. Business Correspondence 1919-29
  2. Business Correspondence 1931
  3. Business Correspondence 1932
  4. Business Correspondence 1933(a)
  5. Business Correspondence 1933(b)
  6. Business Correspondence 1934
  7. Business Correspondence 1935
  8. Business Correspondence 1936(a)

Business Correspondence.

- Box 2**
9. Business Correspondence 1936(b)
  10. Business Correspondence 1937
  11. Business Correspondence 1938(a)
  12. Business Correspondence 1938(b)
  13. Business Correspondence 1939
  14. Business Correspondence 1940

Business Correspondence.

- Box 3**
15. Business Correspondence 1941

16. Business Correspondence 1942
17. Business Correspondence 1943
18. Business Correspondence 1944
19. Business Correspondence 1946
20. Business Correspondence Undated

Business Correspondence.

21. Whitham Correspondence
22. Director's Reports; Mine Examination Correspondence
23. Territorial Department of Mines Correspondence
24. Bank of Cordova Correspondence 1936-39
25. Standard Oil Correspondence
26. Postmaster Correspondence

MS 8-2 Purchase Orders and Invoices include Equipment, Supplies, and Groceries.

Purchase Orders and Invoices.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b><u>Box 4</u></b> | 27. Purchase Orders and Invoices equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 28. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 29. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 30. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 31. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 32. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
| <b><u>Box 5</u></b> | 33. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 34. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 35. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 36. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 37. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
|                     | 38. Purchase Orders and Invoices Equipment and Supplies |
| <b><u>Box 6</u></b> | 39. Purchase Orders and Invoices Groceries              |
|                     | 40. Purchase orders and Invoices Groceries              |
|                     | 41. Purchase Orders and Invoices Groceries              |

MS 8-3 Cancelled Checks and Vouchers are primarily from the 1st National Bank of Cordova and the Pacific National Bank of Seattle.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | 42. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |
|                     | 43. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |
|                     | 44. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |
|                     | 45. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers Pacific National Bank        |
|                     | 46. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers Pacific National Bank        |
| <b><u>Box 7</u></b> | 47. Financial Statements                                       |
|                     | 48. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |
|                     | 49. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |
|                     | 50. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova |

51. Cancelled Checks and Vouchers 1st National Bank of Cordova

MS 8-4 Financial Records: Statements and Registers.

**Box 8**

52. Cash Receipts and Cash Payments Ledger
53. Check and Deposit Register
54. Check and Deposit Register
55. Check Register
56. Financial Statements
57. Financial Statements
58. Accounts and Notes Receivable
59. Camp Checking Account Register
60. Bills Due - 1937
61. Requisitions 1939-40
62. Financial Statements
63. Financial Statements - 1938 Check Register

MS 8-5 Operational Expense Notebooks.

**Box 9**

64. Operational Expense Notebooks
65. Operational Expense Notebooks
66. Operational Expense Notebooks
67. Operational Expense Notebooks
68. Operational Expense Notebooks
69. Operational Expense Notebooks

MS 8-6 Commissary Records include invoices and expense ledgers.

**Box 10**

70. Commissary Invoices
71. Commissary Ledger
72. Commissary Ledger
73. Blank Forms
74. Blank Forms
75. Forms for Stocklisting

MS 8-7 Income Tax Records are incomplete.

**Box 11**

76. Income Tax
77. Income Tax - 1933
78. Accounts and Notes Receivable - Unpaid employers Tax Return
79. Tax Returns - Old Age Benefits
80. Tax Returns - Information and Correspondence
81. Income Tax Data - 1932-33

MS 8-8 Stockholder's Reports in published form are complete for each year issued.

82. Stockholders' Reports 1933

- Box 12**
- 83. Stockholders' Reports 1934
  - 84. Stockholders' Reports 1935-36
  - 85. Stockholders' Reports 1936-39
  - 86. Stockholders' Reports 1933-39
  - 87. Stockholders' Reports 1930-32
  - 88. Stockholders' Reports 1936
  - 89. Stockholders' Reports 1940-45

MS 8-9 Employee Records mainly consisting of employment applications.

- 90. Employee Release Statements
- 91. Employment Applications - 1946
- 92. Employment Applications - 1938-39
- 93. Employment Applications - 1941
- 94. Employment Applications - 1940
- 95. Personal Inquiry Releases
- 96. Accident Reports

MS 8-10 Labor and Wages Records.

- Box 13**
- 97. Monthly Roster: Employees Wages 1941
  - 98. Time Book and Payroll
  - 99. Wage Schedule
  - 100. Monthly Time Sheet
  - 101. Monthly Time Sheet
  - 102. Monthly Time Sheet
  - 103. Labor Distribution - 1935
  - 104. Labor Distribution
  - 105. Labor Distribution - 1936

MS 8-11 Freight Records.

- 106. Auto Freighting Ledger
- 107. Freight
- 108. Shipping Invoices
- 109. Freight Bills

MS 8-12 Insurance Records.

- 110. Insurance - Marine
- 111. Alaska Workmen's Compensation Act - Insurance
- 112. Licenses and Insurance

MS 8-13 Legal Documents: Permits, Contracts and Licenses includes the legal suit Godfrey vs Whitham.

- Box 14**
- 113. Licenses, Permits
  - 114. Contracts
  - 115. Smelter Contract - 1939
  - 116. Timber Permits
  - 117. Godfrey vs Whitham
  - 118. Federal Government Documents, Smelter Contract

MS 8-14 Mine and Production Reports are monthly and annual.

- 119. Monthly mine Mill Production Report - 1937-
- 120. Monthly Production Report - 1938-39
- 121. Territorial Reports - Monthly
- 122. Territorial Reports - Annual

MS 8-15 Metallurgical Reports include notebooks of assayer's reports.

- Box 15**
- 123. Mine Samples
  - 124. Assaying Reports
  - 125. Assay Reports
  - 126. Mine Samples
  - 127. Reports: Gold and Silver
  - 128. Metallurgical Test Report
  - 129. Ore Testing Report
  - 130. Filter File: American Cyanid and Chemical Corporation
  - 131. Cyanide Plant
  - 132. Cyanide Plant

MS 8-16 Mining Claims Reports.

- Box 16**
- 133. Summary of Lots - 1938
  - 134. Summary of Lots
  - 135. Application Blanks for Surveying
  - 136. Discoveries
  - 137. Claims - Blank Deeds
  - 138. Claims
  - 139. Assessment Work - Intention to Hold 1946
  - 140. Summary of Lots Shipped
  - 141. Placer Claims - Drilling (Erceg Correspondence)

MS 8-17 Machinery and Buildings Blueprints for a 35-ton Hardinge ball mill, a 10 inch by 7 inch Blake type jaw crusher, a Hardinge constant weight feeder, four deister Plat-0 concentrating tables, a chain drag classifier by Link-Belt, a 1-ton Hardinge batch amalgamator, compressor and drills among other equipment necessary for the operation of the mill and mine.

- 142. Blueprints
- 143. Blueprints
- 144. Blueprints
- 145. Blueprints
- 146. Blueprints
- 147. Blueprints
- Box 17** 148. Blueprints
- 149. Blueprints
- 150. Blueprints
- 151. Blueprints
- 152. Blueprints
- 153. Blueprints
- Box 18** 154. Blueprints
- 155. Blueprints
- 156. Blueprints
- 157. Blueprints
- 158. Blueprints
- 159. Blueprints
- 160. Blueprints

MS 8-18 Mine Engineering Equipment File

- 161. Engineering Supplies 1926
- 162. General Engineering Mill Flow Sheet
- 163. Mine Engineering - Ore Reserves
- 164. Kennecott Equipment Purchases
- 165. Equipment for Sale - 1940-41
- 166. Equipment - 250 Compressor
- 167. Gardner Denver Company - Invoices
- 168. Diamond Drill Bits
- 169. Used Equipment and Supplies for Sale - 1938

MS 8-19 Equipment Catalogs.

- Box 19** 170. Lietz Company Catalog, 16th Edition
- 171. General Electric Supply Corporation Catalog 31
- 172. Metal and Non-Metallic Mining Catalog, 1942 Edition
- 173. Graybar Electric Company Catalog No. 101
- Box 20** 174. Gardner - Denver Equipment Catalog
- 175. Gardner - Denver Equipment Catalog
- 176. Lincoln Electric Company Lessons in Welding

MS 8-20 Machinery Instruction Manuals.

**Box 21 - 25** 177 - 209

MS 8-21 Memorandum Records and Miscellany includes newspaper clippings, and photographs of the mine and Carl F. Whitham.

**Box 26** 210. Memorandum Desic Calendars: 1933, 1934, 1934, 1935, 1938  
211. Miscellaneous: Company Stationery  
212. Newspaper Clippings  
213. Photographs: Mine, C. F. Whitham

**Box 27-28** Accession no. 2006-20, added July 2006:  
Nabesna Mine business records, 1931-1940; includes ledgers, invoices, correspondence, and records concerning gold and silver sales and amounts of ore sent for smelting